

July 2, 2009 Special Meeting
BENICIA CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

City Council Chambers

July 2, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Times set forth for the agenda items are estimates. Items may be heard before or after the times designated.

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:00 P.M.):

II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PUBLIC

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council and Planning Commission on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council and Planning Commission. State law prohibits the City Council and Planning Commission from responding to or acting upon matters not listed on the agenda.

Each speaker has a maximum of five minutes for public comment. If others have already expressed your position, you may simply indicate that you agree with a previous speaker. If appropriate, a spokesperson may present the views of your entire group. Speakers may not make personal attacks on council members, staff or members of the public, or make comments which are slanderous or which may invade an individual's personal privacy.

A. WRITTEN COMMENT

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. ACTION ITEM:

A. [Draft Housing Element for the 2007-2014 planning period and conversion of the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to assistance for 1st time home buyers and transitional housing.](#)(Community Development Director)

The Housing Element Update began in July 2008 with Council approval to hire Lisa Wise Consulting. Since then, staff and the consultant have been working together to evaluate the existing Housing Element and the local housing supply, engage the public, inventory vacant and underutilized sites, and assess constraints to the production of housing, as required by the State. The purpose of this joint meeting is to present the Draft Housing Element to City Council and Planning Commission, receive any comments and direction, and proceed with submitting the draft to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for review. After receiving comments from the State, the Draft Housing Element will be brought back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation, and ultimately to City Council for adoption. Program 4.01 in the current Housing Element (1999-2006) addresses housing rehabilitation for very low, low and moderate-income housing. The City currently has a balance of \$432,000 available for housing rehabilitation loans, which are administered by the Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Services. Based on lack of demand for such loans, combined with other identified needs, staff recommends replacing this program with a combined first

time home buyers down payment assistance loan program and funds for transitional housing. In order to accomplish this, staff must apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds by July 14 and request to transfer funds towards these purposes.

Recommendation: Provide comments on the Draft 2007-2014 Housing Element to allow its submission to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for review, and direct staff to request conversion of the Rehabilitation Loan Program to a new first time home buyers down payment loan program and funding for transitional housing through an application for Community Development Block Grant funds due July 14, 2009.

VII. ADJOURNMENT (9:00 P.M.):

Public Participation

The Benicia City Council and Planning Commission welcomes public participation.

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. The City Council and Planning Commission allows speakers to speak on non-agendized matters under public comment, and on agendized items at the time the agenda item is addressed at the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment period although informational answers to questions may be given and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda.

Should you have material you wish to enter into the record, please submit it to the City Manager.

Disabled Access

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Valerie Ruxton, the ADA Coordinator, at (707) 746-4211. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Meeting Procedures

All items listed on this agenda are for Council and Planning Commission discussion and/or action. In accordance with the Brown Act, each item is listed and includes, where appropriate, further description of the item and/or a recommended action. The posting of a recommended action does not limit, or necessarily indicate, what action may be taken by the City Council and Planning Commission.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge a decision of the City Council and Planning Commission in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council and Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. You may also be limited by the ninety (90) day statute of limitations in which to challenge in court certain administrative decisions and orders (Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6) to file and serve a petition for administrative writ of mandate challenging any final City decisions regarding planning or zoning.

The decision of the City Council and Planning Commission is final as of the date of its decision unless judicial review is initiated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedures Section 1094.5. Any such petition for judicial review is subject to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

Public Records

The agenda packet for this meeting is available at the City Manager's Office and the Benicia Public Library during regular working hours. To the extent feasible, the packet is also available on the City's web page at www.ci.benicia.ca.us under the heading "Agendas and Minutes." Public records related to an open session agenda item that are distributed after the agenda packet is prepared are available before the meeting at the City Manager's Office located at 250 East L Street, Benicia, or at the meeting held in the Council Chambers. If you wish to submit written information on an agenda item, please submit to the City Clerk as soon as possible so that it may be distributed to the City Council and Planning Commission.

 [IV-A Draft Housing Element.pdf](#)

AGENDA ITEM
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION: JULY 2, 2009
ACTION ITEMS

DATE : June 26, 2009

TO : City Manager

FROM : Community Development Director

SUBJECT : **DRAFT HOUSING ELEMENT FOR THE 2007-2014 PLANNING PERIOD AND CONVERSION OF THE HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM TO ASSISTANCE FOR 1ST TIME HOME BUYERS AND A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Provide comments on the Draft 2007-2014 Housing Element and provide comments to allow its submission to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for review, and
- B. Direct staff to convert the Rehabilitation Loan Program to a new first time home buyers down payment loan program and funding for transitional housing through an application for Community Development Block Grant funds due July 14, 2009.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Housing Element Update began in July 2008 with Council approval to hire Lisa Wise Consulting. Since then, staff and the consultant have been working together to evaluate the existing Housing Element and the local housing supply, engage the public, inventory vacant and underutilized sites, and assess constraints to the production of housing, as required by the State.

The purpose of this joint meeting is to present the Draft Housing Element to City Council and Planning Commission, receive any comments and direction, and proceed with submitting the draft to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for review. After receiving comments from the State, the Draft Housing Element will be brought back to the Planning Commission for a recommendation, and ultimately to City Council for adoption.

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GENERAL PLAN:

Relevant General Plan Policies and Programs:

- Goal 2.1: Preserve Benicia as a small-sized city.
 - Policy 2.1.1 Ensure that new development is compatible with adjacent existing development and does not detract from Benicia's small town qualities and historic heritage.
- Program 3.07 (Housing Element, 1999-2006): Promote available private, state, and federal homebuyer assistance programs to the public by providing information at City Hall, other public locations, and on the City's website.
- Policy 2.03 (Housing Element, 1999-2006): Seek appropriate private, local, state and federal funding to implement housing programs for very-low, low, and moderate-income households.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies:

- Goal 4.00: Preserve and Enhance City Assets and Infrastructure.
 - Strategy 4.30: Maintain and enhance Benicia's historic character.
- Goal 5.00: Enhance Community Appearance
 - Strategy 5.10: Promote quality design in new construction and remodeling.
- Goal 7.00: Build Community Collaboration

BUDGET INFORMATION:

There are no budget impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed amendments are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review under Guidelines Section 15306 (Information Collection), which applies to basic data collection and research activities as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved or adopted.

BACKGROUND:

California state law (Government Code Section 65580 through 65589.8) mandates the contents of the Housing Element. In addition, the State requires that Housing Elements be updated every 5 years. While Benicia's current Housing Element covered the period between 1999-2006, the updated and proposed Draft Housing Element will cover the years between 2007 and 2014.

Four chapters comprise the Draft Housing Element and 12 individual appendices contain state required analyses. Chapter 4 sets forth goals, policies, and programs that will guide city decision

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making through the year 2014.

Staff also requests that Council adopt a resolution supporting conversion of the city's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program and use remaining funds for transitional housing and a first time home buyers down payment assistance loan program. With a current balance of \$432,000 for rehabilitation loans, the City is not eligible to receive additional funds from the State until these funds are expended. Housing and Community Development (HCD) representatives have indicated the State will allow for conversion, but only by submitting an application for CDBG funds and specifically requesting conversion of the program therein. The State also requires a resolution from the City Council supporting such conversion. Because the CDBG application is due July 14, staff is requesting Council direction at this time.

Attachments:

- Draft Housing Element, 2007-2014, June 2009
- Resolution Directing City Staff to Apply for CDBG Funds and Convert the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to a First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Loan Program and Funds for Transitional Housing

ATTACHMENT
DRAFT HOUSING ELEMENT, 2007-2014 (JUNE 2009)

Special Meeting IV-A-4

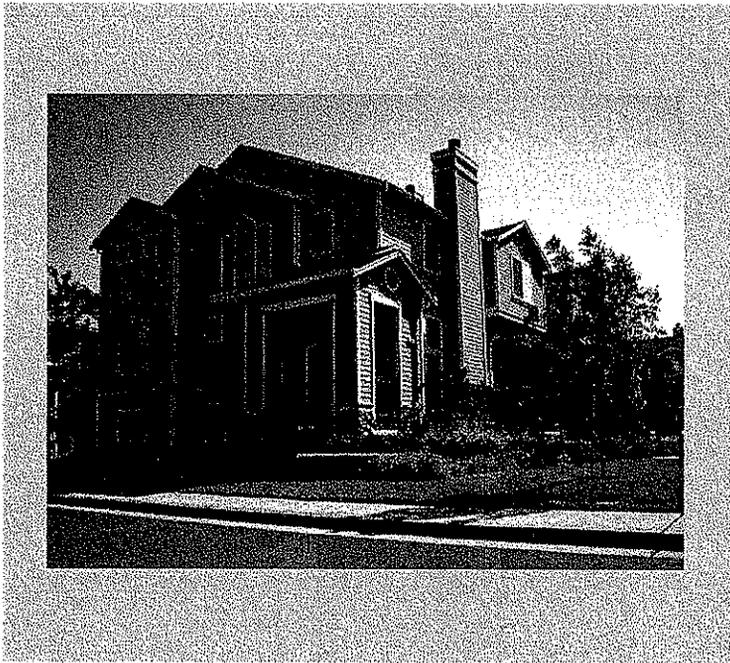
CITY OF BENICIA

HOUSING ELEMENT 2007 - 2014



PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT, JUNE 2009

CITY OF BENICIA, 250 EAST L STREET, BENICIA, CA, 94510



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mike Marcus, Assistant Planner, Sustainability Coordinator
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ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMI	Average Median Income
BEGIN	Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods
Benicia WTP	Benicia Water Treatment Plant
CAC	Community Action Council
CAP Solano	Community Action Partnership of Solano
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CHFA	California Housing Finance Agency
CO	Office Commercial (zoning district)
COG	Council of Governments
CG	General Commercial (zoning district)
CW	Waterfront Commercial (zoning district)
DMUMP	Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan
ECHO	El Camino Homeless Organization
FMR	Fair Market Rent
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCD	Housing and Community Development
HUD	Housing and Urban Development
IL	Limited Industrial (zoning district)
MFI	Median Family Income
mgd	million gallons per day
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NBA	North Bay Aqueduct
NG-O	Neighborhood General – Open (zoning district)
OS	Open Space (zoning district)
PB	Parsons Brinckerhoff
PDA	Priority Development Area
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric
PSC	Putah South Canal
RH	High Density Residential (zoning district)
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Allocation
RM	Medium Density Residential (zoning district)
RS	Single Family Residential (zoning district)
TC	Town Core (zoning district)
TC-O	Town Core – Open (zoning district)
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
VNHS	Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Services
VPS	Voucher Payment Standard

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. From the first settlers to the present day, the nation has evolved through various stages of development. The early years were marked by exploration and the establishment of colonies. The American Revolution led to the birth of a new nation, and the subsequent years saw the expansion of territory and the growth of industry.

The American Civil War was a pivotal moment in the nation's history, leading to the abolition of slavery and the strengthening of the federal government. The Reconstruction era followed, a period of significant social and political change. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the rise of industrialization and the emergence of a new middle class.

The 20th century was a time of global conflict and social progress. The United States played a leading role in World War II, and the Cold War era saw a complex relationship with the Soviet Union. The 1960s and 70s were marked by the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement, which led to significant social and political reforms.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries have seen the United States continue to evolve. The end of the Cold War led to a new era of international relations. The 1990s and 2000s were characterized by economic growth and technological advancement. The 2008 financial crisis and the subsequent recession highlighted the challenges of globalization and the need for reform.

The United States remains a powerful and influential nation in the world. Its history is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of the American people. As the nation continues to grow and change, it will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping the future of the world.

The history of the United States is a story of hope and achievement. It is a story of a nation that has overcome adversity and emerged as a global leader. The American dream remains a powerful ideal, and the United States continues to strive for a better future for all its citizens.

Chapter 1

Introduction

California law recognizes the vital role local governments play in the supply and affordability of housing. Each local government in California is required to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for the physical development of the city or county. The Housing element is one of the seven mandated elements of the General Plan. Housing Element law, first enacted in 1969, mandates that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The State Legislature has found that “the availability of housing is of vital statewide importance, and the early attainment of decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian family, including farmworkers, is a priority of the highest order.” (Government Code §65580(a)).

The Housing Element establishes goals, policies, and programs to facilitate and encourage the provision of safe, adequate housing for its current and future residents of all income levels.

The purposes of the Housing Element are to:

1. Provide adequate housing sites;
2. Assist in the development of affordable housing;
3. Remove governmental and other constraints to housing development;
4. Promote equal housing opportunities; and
5. Encourage efficient use of land and energy resources in residential development.

The Housing Element differs from the other required elements, in that the State mandates that it analyze population and housing trends and include specific, detailed information on projected housing needs. Also, unlike other General Plan elements, the Housing Element must be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review.

This Chapter addresses the contents of the 2007-2014 Housing Element, Regional Housing Needs, data sources for the document, and consistency with the City’s General Plan.

1.1 The City of Benicia 2007-2014 Housing Element

The planning period for this Housing Element extends from January 1, 2007, to June 30, 2014. The Housing Element consists of the following major components, as required by State law:

Public Participation (Chapter 2)

Public Participation is a key component of the Housing Element Update. The City's civic engagement strategy is outlined in Chapter 2. Additional data is found in Appendix H.

Review of the Previous Housing Element (Chapter 3)

The City must review the actual results of the goals, policies, programs, and quantified objectives adopted in the previous Housing Element and analyze the differences between what was projected and what was achieved.

Program of Actions and Quantified Objectives (Chapter 4)

The City must develop housing programs that meet local housing goals and fulfill HCD requirements. The City must develop measurable objectives for construction of new housing and the rehabilitation and conservation of existing units by income category (i.e. very low, low, moderate, and above moderate) to make sure that both the existing and the projected housing needs are met, consistent with the City's share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

Housing and Special Needs Assessment (Appendices A and B)

Appendix A includes a community profile of population characteristics, household information, housing stock, tenure, and housing affordability. Affordable units at-risk of conversion to market-rate are discussed in Appendix A. Appendix B describes special housing needs for seniors, farmworkers, homeless, large households, and female-headed households. This includes designations of zones where emergency shelters will be allowed.

Land Inventory (Appendices C and F)

The City must compile relevant information on the zoning, acreage, density ranges, availability of services, infrastructure, and dwelling unit capacity of sites that are suitable for residential development. This information can be found in Appendix C. A detailed list by parcel of vacant, vacant and constrained, and underutilized sites can be found in Appendix F.

Housing Resources (Appendix D)

The City has summarized existing housing resources in Appendix D. These include organizations and programs related to affordable housing in Benicia.

Governmental and Non-governmental Constraints (Appendix E)

An assessment of governmental and non-governmental impediments to the development of housing for all income levels is included in this Appendix. This appendix also includes a discussion of energy conservation.

1.2 Regional Housing Needs

State housing element law (Government Code § 65580 et. seq.) requires regional councils of government (COGs) to identify for each city and county its "fair share" of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The Association of Bay

Area Governments (ABAG), the COG for the Benicia area, adopted the RHNA in February 2008 (See Table 1.1). ABAG took into account several factors in preparing the RHNA, including projected households, job growth, regional income distribution, and location of public transit.

In turn, each city and county must address their local share of regional housing in their housing elements. The number of new homes are split by income category based on the limits for very-low, low, moderate, and above-moderate income households established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Solano County's 2008 income limits are shown in Table 1.2.

The Regional Housing Needs Allocation for Benicia is shown in Table 1.1. The City must plan for 532 new homes. The 2015 General Plan anticipated that 1,258 new housing units could be added to the City between 1995 and 2015. The current RHNA allocation of 532 new homes combined with the 413 units from the previous planning period (1999-2006) results in 945 new housing units. Based on historic building trends it is fair to assume that the three years of the General Plan planning period not accounted for by these two Housing Element planning periods (1996-1999) did not yield more than the 313 remaining housing units allowed by the General Plan. Therefore, the build-out projection will not be exceeded and ABAG's RHNA numbers are consistent with the population projections in the City's General Plan. Extremely Low Income Housing Needs are discussed in Appendix A of this document.

Table 1.1 City of Benicia Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
January 1, 2007 - June 30, 2014

	Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above Moderate Income	Total
Regional Housing Needs Allocation	147	99	108	178	532
Units Permitted Between January 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008	0	0	0	101	101
2007 - 2014 Remaining RHNA	147	99	108	77	431

Source: City of Benicia 2009, ABAG 2008

Definitions of Household Income

- Extremely Low Income: Incomes less than or equal to 30% of area median family income (MFI).
- Very Low-Income: Incomes between 31% and 50% of area median family income (MFI).
- Low-Income: Incomes between 51% and 80% of area median family income (MFI).
- Moderate-Income: Incomes between 81% and 119% of area median family income (MFI).

Table 1.2 Solano County 2008 Income Limits

Income Categories	Persons Per Household				
	1	2	3	4	5
Extremely Low Income (<30% MFI)	\$15,800	\$18,100	\$20,350	\$22,600	\$24,400
Very Low Income (30% - 50% MFI)	\$26,400	\$30,150	\$33,950	\$37,700	\$40,700
Low Income (50% - 80% MFI)	\$42,400	\$48,250	\$54,250	\$60,300	\$65,100
Median Income	\$52,800	\$60,300	\$67,900	\$75,400	\$81,400
Moderate Income (80% - 120% MFI)	\$63,300	\$72,400	\$81,500	\$90,500	\$97,700

Source: HCD 2008

The 532 unit number can be reduced by the planning permits issued between January 1, 2007 and June 2009. Taking this into account, Benicia has 431 of the allocated units remaining - most of which are in the very-low to moderate income categories.

While not responsible for the actual construction of these units, Benicia is, however, responsible for creating a regulatory environment in which the private market could build these additional homes. This includes the creation, adoption, and implementation of Citywide goals, policies, programs, and zoning standards, along with economic incentives to facilitate the construction of a wide range of housing types.

1.3 Data Sources

Various information sources have been used to prepare the Housing Element Update, with 1990 and 2000 Census data representing the primary sources. Other sources used to update and supplement the Census data include population and demographic data from the State Department of Finance and housing market information for home sales, rents, and vacancies derived from the public domain. Public and non-profit agencies were consulted for data on special needs groups and services available. Departments at the City of Benicia provided information including Community Development and Public Works. For a complete listing of references see Appendix L.

1.4 General Plan Consistency

The Housing Element is one of the seven mandatory elements of the General Plan, which was last comprehensively updated by the City in 1999 (The Land Use Map was updated in 2003). For the General Plan to provide effective guidance on land use issues, the goals, policies and programs of each element must be internally consistent. This Housing Element builds upon the existing General Plan and is consistent with its policies. Consistency between the Housing Element and the General Plan will continue to be evaluated whenever an element of the General Plan is amended. During this process the City must ensure any amendments maintain consistency throughout the General Plan.

Chapter 2

Public Participation

This Chapter presents the process undertaken by the City to receive public input and encourage public participation in the Housing Element update process.

2.1 Public Participation Process

The City solicited input from the public by organizing the following meetings and workshops:

1. "Housing Expo", October 3 and 4, 2008
2. City Council Meeting, November 18, 2008
3. Housing Sites Workshop, February 10, 2009
4. Presentation to Planning Commission and City Council, July 2, 2009

Housing Expo



The Housing Expo was held to provide an introduction to the Housing Element and gather community input. Activities and sessions included Housing 101, Housing Strategies, Affordable Housing Tour, Vacant/Opportunity Sites Tour, Goal, Policy & Program Development, Visual Preference Survey, Idea Gallery, Map It! Exercise, and Vision Exercise. The event was publicized using multiple media, including mailings, flyers, advertisements in local publications, the City's website, and tv spots on the local government access channel. Over 50 residents participated in the two-day Housing Expo.

The first day of the Expo introduced the Housing Element update process and the State requirements. A panel of local, regional, and State representatives discussed the role of their agencies and answered questions from the audience. In addition to City Staff and consultants, the panel consisted of:

- Paul McDougall, Housing Policy Manager from the State Department of Housing and Community Development;
- Julie Peterson, from the Benicia Housing Authority; and
- Mary Frances Kelly Poh, from the Community Action Council.

The majority of participant questions centered around the following:

- How much need is there for affordable housing?
- What are the funding sources for providing financial assistance to individual households?
- What is the process for families to obtain low-income housing?
- Where are potential areas that could accommodate housing?

The second day provided residents with the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that were designed to inform and facilitate a discussion of housing issues in the community.

Activities included:

- Map It! Exercise: Where should future housing and change occur? Where are sites that provide the opportunity for infill, revitalization, or neighborhood retrofit?
- Vacant/Opportunity Sites Tour: An invitation for residents to tour vacant/opportunity sites and comment on what type of housing could be placed there.
- Visual Preference Survey: Comment and provide feedback on housing styles, densities, heights, and landscaping that could be appropriate for Benicia.
- Affordable Housing Tour: An opportunity for residents to tour affordable housing developments within the City and provide comments about what they liked most about these projects.
- Goals, Policies, and Programs Development Exercise: Review and comment on existing goals, policies, and programs, as well as discuss ideas for new goals, policies, and programs for the Housing Element Update.
- Idea Gallery: A forum for additional comments or feedback from participants.
- Vision Exercise: If the future of housing in Benicia could be written, how would it be drafted?

The following points identify the main comments or topics of discussion received from the community during the Expo:

- Affordable housing is important to the

community;

- The housing allocation (532 units) is a challenge due to the limited amount of vacant land available;
- Existing shopping centers and the City-owned East E Street lot could provide opportunities for revitalization and housing;
- Infill sites should be selected based on proximity to transit, goods, and services to address the needs of senior and disabled persons;
- Standards for new construction should incorporate sustainable design features;
- Small-scale housing with traditional design is generally preferable;
- Reduce costs and streamline the review process for second units;
- Revitalize some existing lower-income housing;
- Consider changes to the zoning ordinance to promote infill development;
- Obtaining funding for housing assistance in Benicia is difficult;
- Housing development downtown should be sensitive to Benicia's historic character; and
- The City should look for opportunities in the neighborhoods north of I-780.

City Council Meeting

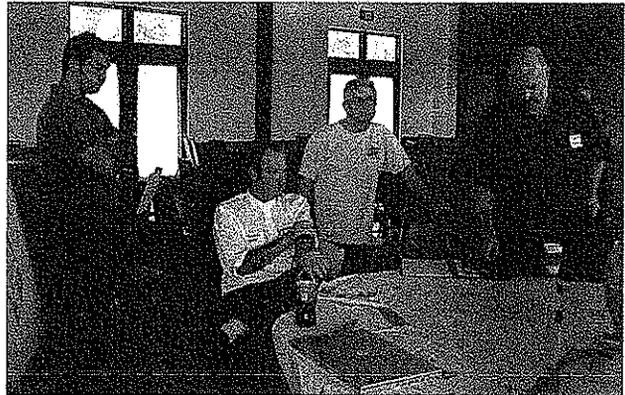
On November 18, 2008, City Staff and consultants updated the City Council on the Housing Element process and the outcomes of the Housing Expo. Based on the outcomes of the Housing Expo, preliminary strategies to address local housing issues were developed and presented to City Council. These strategies include:

- Conduct a feasibility study of the redevelopment of Solano Square and other opportunity sites for mixed-use development with commercial and residential uses;
- Rezone parcels for higher-density multi-family development at 20 dwelling units per acre;
- Revise standards, such as parking requirements for second units, to make infill development more feasible;
- Amend the General Commercial (CG) zone district to allow additional housing types other than just live/work and group residential;
- Amend the Zoning Ordinance to comply with State law promoting emergency and transitional

- housing;
- Encourage more affordable housing for seniors and disabled persons with accessibility and proximity to services;
- Investigate mechanisms to improve or replace the mobile home park on East Military Street;
- Promote green building and energy efficiency through incentives, weatherization, and conservation programs; and
- Emphasize efficient land use patterns and quality in design.

Housing Sites Workshop

Another workshop was held to discuss the results from the Housing Expo with the community and potential sites for affordable housing. Approximately 75 residents attended to express their opinions of opportunity sites that could be revitalized, vacant sites that could be developed, and sites that should remain unchanged. The consultants presented a short presentation and, then, the audience broke up into five discussion groups (see Appendix H for summary of comments).



2.2 Organizations Contacted

Throughout the Housing Element update process communication was maintained with several organizations and agencies involved with housing issues in Benicia, including:

Julie Peterson
Benicia Housing Authority
28 Riverhill Drive
Benicia, CA 94510

Mary Frances Kelly Poh
Community Action Council
480 Military East
Benicia, CA 94510

Robert Moore
Affordable Housing Affiliation
1400 East 2nd Street
Benicia, CA 94510

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Chapter 3

Review of Previous Housing Element 1999- 2006

This Chapter summarizes the progress made during the previous planning period (1999-2006) towards accomplishing the goals, policies, programs, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) set out in the previous Housing Element.

3.1 Summary of Progress

The City of Benicia met and exceeded the goals of the previous Housing Element, with the exception of meeting the RHNA for very low-income units. Table 3.1 summarizes the City's RHNA for the period from January 1999 through December 2006 and the number of housing units built or approved

during that planning period. Since January 1999, the City constructed or approved 812 units, which greatly exceeded the 413 unit total allocation. Moreover, 182 very low- and low-income housing were approved. This exceeded the very low- and low-income allocation by 63 units. However, in the very low-income category alone, the City was 16 units short of meeting the RHNA number of 70.

The goals and policies of the previous element were found to be generally sufficient in covering the range of issues for a comprehensive Housing Element in Benicia. Housing goals and policies have been restructured and revised to some extent to eliminate redundancy and to clarify the intent.

Table 3.1 Progress During Previous Planning Period, 1999-2006

Income Level	1999-2006 RHNA	Housing Built or Approved Since January 1999	Remainder of Housing Goals
Very Low	70	54	16
Low	49	128	0
Moderate	90	165	0
Above-Moderate	204	465	0
Total	413	812	16

Source: City of Benicia

Also, several new goals and policies are introduced to reflect updated housing priorities for the City.

This following section evaluates each program in the previous Housing Element and summarizes the status of implementation.

Institutional Framework

Program 1.01

Work cooperatively with the Housing Authority to coordinate affordable housing activities and implement the policies and programs of the Housing Element. Cooperation will include the following:

1. Consult the Housing Authority in updating the City's Housing Element,
2. Continue to share agendas between the City and the Housing Authority,
3. Collaborate with the Housing Authority on strategies so that Housing Element and Housing Authority programs are complementary,
4. Consult the Housing Authority during the annual review of the Housing Element, and
5. Consult the Housing Authority to assist with the placement of individuals in units produced by the inclusionary housing ordinance and other affordable projects.

Status of Program Implementation

The Housing Authority has been involved with the current Housing Element update in the following ways: (1) participated on an interview panel to select a firm to prepare the update, (2) participated on an expert panel during the Housing Expo civic engagement process, (3) collaborated with the City regarding existing programs and helped make suggestions for the update, and (4) reviewed the Draft Housing Element.

The City and Housing Authority have shared information on meetings, agendas, and current projects throughout the planning period. The City has been responsive to Housing Authority needs and concerns. The City also consults with the Housing Authority during the annual review of the Housing Element. As part of the process the Housing Authority submits an annual status report to the City. During the previous planning period the Housing Authority placed 200 families in affordable units.

Four units of very low- and low-income housing were constructed at Bay Ridge (and paid for by the Harbor Walk Project) as a result of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, adopted in 2000. The Bay Ridge Development is managed by the Housing Authority. Although not built as a result of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, 50 units of affordable housing were constructed at Bay Ridge and paid for by the Tourtelot Project.

Program 1.02

Maintain and expand the City's relationships with non-profit housing providers through the following actions:

1. Maintain an available sites inventory and provide this inventory to non-profit housing providers,
2. Expedite review of residential development proposals that include affordable housing units,
3. Provide pre-application technical assistance to affordable housing providers to determine project feasibility and address zoning compliance issues in the most cost-effective and expeditious manner possible, and
4. Provide information within the City's possession to support affordable housing funding requests.

Status of Program Implementation

The City maintains its inventory of available sites for affordable housing projects.

The City assists with affordable projects including expedited review and technical assistance. However, the City does not have a formal procedure for expedited review of affordable housing projects.

Program 1.03

Continue to implement development permit processes to reduce the cost of providing affordable housing, which includes actions to:

1. Provide a fast-track processing procedure for housing projects affordable to low- and moderate-income households;
2. Review annually and amend as appropriate the permit fee schedule as it affects small, attached single-family dwellings to achieve parity with development fees for other types of housing (last amended 2000);
3. Defer, waive, or reduce certain development fees, portions of fees, or combinations of fees for the affordable portion of any project with the minimum percentage of affordable housing units pursuant to (or in excess of) the requirements of Program and Policy 2.01);
4. Provide for the reduction or waiver of certain development fees, portions of fees, or combinations of fees for the residential affordable portion of any commercial project: and
5. Amend Benicia Municipal Code, Chapter 1.20, to include language permitting the City Council to waive or reduce fees when a project provides affordable housing units.

Status of Program Implementation

The City assists when feasible with affordable projects including expedited review and technical assistance. However, the City does not have a formal procedure for expedited review or waiver of fees for affordable housing projects.

Timeframes for affordable projects during the previous planning period ranged from 2.5 to 9 years from the application being filed to the certificate of occupancy. Only 1 project took 9 years, most were between 2.5 and 5 years.

City of Benicia development fees are shown in Table E.8 in Appendix E: Constraints. There is no difference between fees for small, attached single-family dwellings and other residential development for projects up to 6 units, except that there is a reduced connection fee for sewer and water for accessory units.

The City Council may choose to waive the Capital License Fee, Traffic Impact Fees, Park Dedication Fees, and Building Inspection Fees, although this hasn't occurred to date. The City will not waive sewer or water fees. When the Burgess Point project was approved the City loaned funds to pay the fees.

The Municipal Code has not been amended to include language permitting the City Council to waive or reduce fees for affordable housing projects. This program will be continued in the 2007 - 2014 Housing Element Update.

Program 1.04

Continue to implement, or revise, Zoning Ordinance standards to facilitate the provision of affordable housing. Zoning standards affected by this program include:

1. Reduction in the minimum lot size for detached second units (from 10,000 to 6,000 square feet (accomplished and ongoing action);
2. Elimination of the requirement for covered parking for second units (accomplished and ongoing action);
3. Conforming the City's density bonus incentive to State density bonus law (Government Code

Status of Program Implementation

The minimum lot size for second units has been reduced to 6,000 sf.

The covered parking requirement for second units has been eliminated.

Two recent legislative actions, SB 1818 and AB 2280, have recently been passed, that amended the State density bonus program. SB 1818 became effective on January 1, 2005. Under SB 1818 applicants are eligible for an innovative new land donation density bonus, which allows for land donations within 1/4 mile of a project if the

Sections 65915 - 65917);

4. Establish guidelines for alternative property development standards that the decision-making body may approve for projects containing the minimum percentages of affordable housing units pursuant to (or in excess of) the requirements of Program and Policy 2.01;
5. Clarification that standards for boarding houses, which restrict the number of boarders in single-family residences, do not apply to Limited Residential Care facilities, which are allowed by right in the Single-Family zone.

applicant demonstrates to the City that building the requisite number of affordable units onsite is infeasible and there is an identified source of funding for the very low income units. SB 1818 also limits parking requirements that may be imposed by the Zoning Ordinance's parking standards. The City completed an update of their density bonus program in 2006 to comply with SB 1818.

AB 2280 became effective in September 2008. The bill institutes various changes to the density bonus law, most notably the bill amends the timing for density bonus requests, clarifies density bonus requirements for senior housing, and institutes a 10 percent across the board increase in the percentage of affordable units that must be included in a project to qualify for incentives. The City's Zoning Ordinance has not been updated to be consistent with AB 2280. Program 1.04 updates the density bonus ordinance for compliance with recent changes in state law.

The ability to establish alternative development standards is provided through the PD process and also defined in the Density Bonus section of the Municipal Code (17.70.270). The City has not established guidelines for alternative development standards for the inclusionary ordinance.

No changes were made to the Zoning Ordinance to implement this portion of Program 1.04. However, in the Benicia Zoning Ordinance boarding houses are classified under Group Residential not Residential Care facilities, thus the standards for boarding houses do not apply to Limited Residential Care uses.

The definition in the Zoning Ordinance for "Group Residential" is: "shared living quarters without separate kitchen or bathroom facilities for each room or unit. This classification includes boardinghouses, dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and private residential clubs". This use is not allowed in the RS zoning district, and needs a Use Permit in the RM, and RH and CG districts.

Program 1.05

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that projects are constructed at least at the minimum required density in the RM (minimum 8 units per acre) and RH (minimum 15 units per acre) districts to preserve the limited supply of multi-family zoned land for multi-family uses.

Status of Program Implementation

This program has not been implemented. This program will not be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element Update. The City follows State law which requires findings to be made in order to approve a project to develop at less than minimum allowed densities.

Program 1.06

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to permit second units, by right, in all residential districts, subject to administrative staff review for conformance with applicable zoning standards. The City will adopt a process for existing property owners without legally conforming second units to bring their second units into compliance to the City's zoning and building standards. The objective of the process will be to encourage compliance rather than penalize property owners. To encourage compliance, property owners who agree to restrict rents and limit occupancy of their second units to low-income households may be eligible for CDBG funding under the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program. The City will promote its second units standards through postings on the City of Benicia's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us), an informational brochure available at public locations in Benicia (e.g., City Hall and Benicia Library), and an article(s) in the local newspaper(s).

Status of Program Implementation

Second units are permitted by right in all residential districts and in the TC, TC-O, NG, and NG-O districts.

The City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance on January 20, 2004 to comply with AB1866 enacted by the State of California to address second dwelling units. The process to bring nonconforming second units into compliance is addressed in Chapter 17.98 of the Benicia Municipal Code. See review of Program 4.01 for additional information on housing rehabilitation.

The City promotes second units through informational brochures available at the planning counter in the Community Development Department.

Program 1.07

Undertake a decision-maker and public education program on affordable housing through an annual reporting to the Planning Commission and City Council on housing issues and the City's achievements with respect to the quantified objectives in the Housing Element. This report will be the annual report required by state law (California Government Code 65400) for reporting on progress in implementing the City's General Plan. As part of the annual reporting process, Benicia will present educational materials on affordable housing issues prepared by other municipal agencies and organizations, and incorporate these materials into Planning Commission and City Council meetings, as appropriate.

Status of Program Implementation

This program has not been implemented. The Housing Authority does provide the City with an annual status report. The City provides the annual report required by State law.

A status report, including the effectiveness of financial assistance and development opportunity strategies, on the four identified affordable housing projects (Hearthstone, Bayridge, Eagle Glen, and Rockridge) will be a part of the annual reporting process. Notification of presentation of this report will be sent to all persons on the mailing list developed for the Housing Element update and posted on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Program 1.08

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to create development standards for live/work units.

Status of Program Implementation

This program was implemented in the Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan (DMUMP) for the Town Core Open and Neighborhood General Open zones. Live/work units are also allowed in the Community Commercial, General Commercial, and Waterfront Commercial zones, where development standards refer to the High Density Residential zone for site area per unit and court requirements.

Program 1.09

Investigate the feasibility of joining a consortium to access a pooled source of funding for mortgage revenue bonds or mortgage credit certificates for the development of affordable housing and/or first-time homebuyer assistance. The City will investigate existing consortiums to which California cities and counties belong and report to the City Council on the most appropriate consortium for Benicia based on cost, level of activity, and the potential for funding to benefit Benicia residents. Assuming the City identifies an appropriate consortium; Benicia will take the necessary legal, administrative, and financial steps to become a member.

Status of Program Implementation

This program has not been implemented and will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element Update.

Housing Stock

Program 2.01

Continue to implement the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (Benicia Zoning Ordinance, Section 17.70.320). This Ordinance requires that new residential projects of 10 or more units include 5 percent of the units affordable to very low-income households and 5 percent of the units affordable to low income households. The City may allow the developer to pay in-lieu fees, donate developable land, or provide an alternative in-lieu contribution package acceptable to the City.

Status of Program Implementation

The Inclusionary Housing Ordinance was adopted in 2000 and has continued to be implemented. Four units were constructed as a result of the inclusionary ordinance during the previous planning period. These units were constructed in the Bay Ridge development (managed by the Housing Authority) and were funded by the Harbor Walk Project.

A similar arrangement was made for the Tourtelot project. Although the application for the Tourtelot Project was filed before adoption of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, an agreement was reached between the developer and the City that affordable units would be provided. The 50 units were constructed at Bay Ridge and funded by the Tourtelot Project.

No in-lieu fees were paid, nor land donations made during the previous planning period.

Program 2.02

Establish a housing trust fund to be funded by in-lieu fees. This fund will be used to support affordable housing activities such as an equity share program, site acquisition, write down of land costs, subsidization of rents and mortgages, site improvement, and provision of collateral for development loans.

Status of Program Implementation

All projects with more than 10 units constructed since adoption of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance have built affordable units (see Program 2.01 above). No in-lieu fees have been collected and a housing trust fund funded by in-lieu fees has not been established. If in-lieu fees are collected as a result of future projects a fund will be established. This program will be included in the 2007-2014 Housing Element.

Program 2.03

Continue to implement procedures applicable to inclusionary for-sale units to ensure ongoing affordability. These procedures specify the resale control mechanism, equity recapture, qualifications for subsequent buyers, and other relevant issues that are not part of the inclusionary ordinance.

Status of Program Implementation

This program will continue to be implemented.

Program 2.04

Continue to implement land use designations and zoning that permits opportunities to meet the target objectives under the City’s regional housing allocation.

Benicia will continue to promote second- and third-story residential development, as allowed by right, in the City’s downtown commercial districts. The City will provide, when possible, developer incentives such as expedited permit processing and fee deferrals for units that are affordable to lower income households. Benicia will promote these incentives to developers on the City’s website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and during the application process.

Status of Program Implementation

The Town Core Zone in the Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan (DMUMP) area allows buildings up to 2.5 stories. The DMUMP was the result of a comprehensive rezoning effort in downtown Benicia. The DMUMP is a form-based zoning code for the downtown area.

The City has not established any developer incentives for building affordable second- and third-story residential units in the downtown area.

The City does not have a formal procedure for expedited review of affordable housing projects. However, the City assists when feasible with affordable projects including expedited review and technical assistance.

Program 2.05

Continue to require that very low-income housing required under Policy 2.01 be priced affordable to households earning 50 percent or less of the area median income (as annually defined by HCD).

Status of Program Implementation

This program continues to be implemented.

Program 2.06

Continue to require that low-income housing required under Policy 2.01 be priced affordable to households earning 80 percent or less of the area median income (as annually defined by HCD).

Status of Program Implementation

This program continues to be implemented.

Program 2.07

When an eligible project application is submitted to the City, apply for appropriate state and federal funds, or support other housing providers in applying for funding to support the development of new low- and very low-income housing. The City will make a determination of appropriate funding sources and activities to pursue based on competitive funding considerations, the funding cycles of various state and federal sources, the City’s Housing Element quantified objectives, and housing provider interest. The City will support funding applications by housing providers through the actions stated in Program 1.02.

Status of Program Implementation

During the previous planning period the Benicia Community Action Council (CAC) proposed a transitional housing project and approached the City for support in acquiring HCD funds. The funding did not come through and the project was not constructed. The City and local housing providers continue to look for this type of opportunity and keep track of upcoming funding sources and opportunities. Currently, the City is working with the CAC to establish a transitional housing facility. This program will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element.

Special Needs

Program 3.01

Continue to refer persons in need of transitional housing assistance to the Benicia Community Action Council. The City will meet annually with the Community Action Council to determine the potential future need for transitional housing facilities within Benicia, and assess the available permanent housing options for Benicia residents who are in transition.

Status of Program Implementation

The City refers those in need of transitional assistance to the CAC. The CAC receives referrals from the City of people in need of emergency or transitional housing. It locates short-term motel room accommodations for those referred.

There are three long-term transitional housing facilities in Benicia, Imani (6 beds), Stepping Stones (6 beds) and Adobe (18 beds).

Program 3.02

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to specify a use definition and zoning classifications(s) in which homeless shelters will be permitted. The City will solicit input from local service providers (e.g., Community Action Council) in the preparation and adoption of the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that development standards and permit processing will not impede the approval and/or development of homeless shelters. The City will select zoning district(s) in which there are existing vacant or underutilized sites that could accommodate such a use. To facilitate the location of homeless shelters, the City may consider adopting criteria to address:

Status of Program Implementation

This program has not been implemented. This program will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element to comply with Senate Bill 2 the "Fair Share Zoning" law requiring that emergency shelters be allowed by right in at least one zoning district in the City. In this 2007-2014 Housing Element update the City is proposing that these facilities be allowed in all R zone districts. Any zoning changes must occur within one year of Housing Element certification.

- hours of operation;
- external lighting and noise;
- provision of security measures for the proper operation and management of a proposed facility;
- measures to avoid queues of individuals outside proposed facility;
- proximity of public transit, supportive services, and commercial services;
- compliance with county and state health and safety requirements for food, medical, and other supportive services provided on-site; and
- management issues.

The standards developed for homeless shelters will act to encourage and facilitate the use through clear and unambiguous guidelines for the

application review process, the basis for approval, and the terms and conditions of approval. A need for emergency shelters in Benicia has not been identified; however, if such a need should arise appropriate locations for homeless shelters are required to be considered during a public hearing process before any commitments can be made regarding suitable sites.

Program 3.03

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to specify a use definition and zoning classification(s) in which transitional housing will be permitted. The City will solicit input from local service providers (e.g., Community Action Council) in the preparation and adoption of the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that development standards and permit processing will not impede the approval and/or development of transitional housing. The City will select zoning district(s) in which there are existing vacant or underutilized sites that could accommodate such a use. The standards applied to transitional housing will act to encourage and facilitate the use through clear and unambiguous guidelines for the application review process, the basis for approval, and the terms and conditions of approval. A need for transitional housing in Benicia has not been identified in Benicia; however, if such a need should arise appropriate locations for transitional housing are required to be considered during a public hearing process before any commitments can be made regarding suitable sites.

Status of Program Implementation

This program has not been implemented. This program will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element to comply with Senate Bill 2 the "Fair Share Zoning" law requiring that transitional housing be subjected to the same standards as single-family residences. Any zoning changes must occur within one year of Housing Element certification.

Program 3.04

Facilitate the establishment of shared housing in Benicia to bring together persons with special housing needs, including single parents and elderly persons, to share living accommodations and housing costs. The City will facilitate shared housing by continuing to permit such housing and associated supportive services under the Zoning Ordinance and consider applying for private, state, or federal funding for a proposed shared housing project or program, when an eligible project is submitted to the City.

Status of Program Implementation

There are currently no managed projects of this type. There are no known constraints to developing this type of project in Benicia. This program will not be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element Update.

Program 3.05

Promote the City's development standards for residential care facilities, group homes, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other special needs housing and shelter through a brochure to be distributed to nonprofit and public agencies serving special needs groups. The City's development standards will also be posted on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Status of Program Implementation

Development standards for Residential Care Facilities are available in the Zoning Ordinance available on the City's website.

Program 3.06

Encourage the Benicia Housing Authority to continue to apply for the authority to use Section 8 housing vouchers for homeownership assistance and to increase the number of vouchers that may be used for that purpose.

Status of Program Implementation

The Benicia Housing Authority had 372 vouchers available throughout the previous planning period. They have primarily been used for renter assistance, but they can also be used for homeownership assistance towards a monthly mortgage payment. There are approximately 500 families waitlisted for these vouchers. The wait is approximately 4 years to obtain a voucher. About 150-200 of these families are made up of persons over the age of 60. The wait for the Burgess Point and Bayridge Projects is about 2 years due to a more stringent background check and credit check qualifications to live in those developments.

Program 3.07

Promote available private, state, and federal homebuyer assistance programs to the public by providing information at City Hall, other public locations, and on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Status of Program Implementation

No information is currently available at the public counter and not on the City's website. This program will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element Update.

Program 3.08

Continue to support Solano County and the Community Action Council (CAC) in applying for funds to maintain adequate local and County facilities for homeless persons through letters of support signed by the City Manager and continuance of an annual allocation from the City's budget. The City will assist the CAC in promoting the availability of fiscal resources by posting notifications on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us). (CAC is part of countywide consortium of

Status of Program Implementation

The City funded the CAC annually throughout the previous planning period and has continued funding during this fiscal year of 2008/2009.

The funding amounts provided by year are as follows:

2002/03 \$46,000
2003/04 \$50,000
2004/05 \$50,000

community service groups who join together in applying for applicable state and federal funds for their organizations.

They have found this collaborative approach, supported by their respective governmental jurisdictions, much more successful than if each individual agency applied for funds. The City's 2002/2003 budget allocates approximately \$47,000 to the CAC).

2005/05 \$57,000
2006/07 \$57,000
2007/08 \$59,735
2008/09 \$59,735 The funding amount is re-evaluated for each budget cycle. The CAC has requested \$70,690 for the 2009-2010 budget cycle.

As discussed under the review of program 2.07, the CAC asked for City support on one project that did not come to fruition during the last planning period. When feasible, the City will continue to work with the CAC on a project-specific basis to obtain funding to construct affordable or transitional housing.

Housing Rehabilitation

Program 4.01

Apply, as appropriate, for funding to rehabilitate very low-, low-, and/or moderate-income housing. The City will annually review the pool of existing available resources to determine the need for additional rehabilitation funding. If a need is identified, the City would apply for additional state rehabilitation monies. The City of Benicia would be the applicant for such funds and would apply directly to the funding source. The City will then promote the availability of such funds through posting notices on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and providing fliers at the Community Action Council (CAC), Benicia Library, and the City's Community Development Department.

Status of Program Implementation

An agreement was made in 2007 between Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Services (VNHS) and the City of Benicia for VNHS to oversee and manage housing rehabilitation in Benicia. To date seven loans have been made totaling \$319,000.

Program 4.02

Prepare standard specifications for seismic retrofitting of existing residential structures to assist property owners in meeting current seismic safety standards. Seismic retrofitting will continue to be an eligible activity under the City's housing rehabilitation program. The City will promote its seismic retrofitting program through a distribution brochure at City Hall, other public locations, and on the City of Benicia's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Status of Program Implementation

The City will use ABAG's "Residential Seismic Strengthening Standard Plan Set for Woodframe Houses." The Community Development Department's Building Division will present this to City Council to adopt a Resolution endorsing the Standard Plan Set, and encourage residents to use it.

Program 4.03

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to restrict the conversion of residential structures to non-residential use when such conversions have the potential to displace very low-, low-, or moderate-income residents or result in the loss of rental housing.

Status of Program Implementation

The Zoning Ordinance has not been amended.

Program 4.04

Contact the owners of the three mobile home parks located in Benicia to determine future plans for their properties and the feasibility of continuing mobile home park use. For those mobile home parks that Benicia determines are economically viable, the City will assist the owner in accessing state or federal funds for improvements, or park residents in converting the park to resident ownership. The objective is to preserve the parks for mobile home use. The City will also continue to implement its mobile home park conversion ordinance to ensure that any conversion of a mobile home park to other uses is preceded with adequate notice, and that relocation and other assistance for park residents follows the conversion. A relocation plan for tenants of the mobile home park must be submitted to the Planning Commission for approval as part of the application for conversion.

Status of Program Implementation

This program is currently underway. The City's Building, Planning, and Code Enforcement Divisions have coordinated meetings with the owners. This program will be continued in the 2007-2014 Housing Element Update.

Equal Access

Program 5.01

Continue to maintain a complaint referral process for those persons who believe they have been denied access to housing because of their race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, or disability, family status, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. The City will educate selected staff in the Community Development, City Attorney, and City Manager departments on responding to complaints received regarding potential claims of housing discrimination. The selected personnel will be given a typed handout detailing the process for someone with a complaint and the agencies that should be contacted regarding a claim: Solano

Status of Program Implementation

This program continues to be implemented. The Benicia Housing Authority and Community Action Council both have procedures in place to refer anyone filing a housing discrimination complaint to Legal service of Northern California and the Office of Fair Housing. No complaints were filed during the previous planning period.

County's District Attorney's office, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, San Francisco Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing, Legal Services of Northern California (Solano County Vallejo office), and ECHO (non-profit housing advocacy group). The City will also refer persons to the Benicia Housing Authority and Community Action Council (CAC) for informational brochures and advisory counseling on equal housing opportunity resources. The City Attorney's office will be notified, and a log maintained, of all complaints received. Additionally, all information regarding the housing discrimination complaint referral process is available at the Benicia Housing Authority, CAC, and on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Program 5.02

Conduct a conformity review of the City's Zoning Ordinance in association with compliance of state laws regarding housing. If section(s) of the City's Zoning Ordinance are not consistent with state housing law, applicable revision(s) and amendment(s) will be made to the Zoning Ordinance.

Status of Program Implementation

A review of the Zoning Ordinance for conformity with State housing law has been conducted. The 2007-2014 Housing Element Update proposes programs to amend the Zoning Ordinance to address any outstanding nonconformities in the ordinance. The following amendments to the Zoning Ordinance were made during the previous planning period.

- 2000 - Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (Resolution 00-9_
- 2004 - Added new section 17.16.080 accessory dwelling units, amended section 17.70.270 affordable housing density bonus (Resolution 04-2)
- 2006 - Amendment to BMC Section 17.70.270 affordable housing density bonus (Resolution 06-15)
- 2007 - Amendments to accessory dwelling units inclusionary housing. BMC sections 17.70.060 and 17.70.320 (Resolution 07-60)
- 2007 - Amendment dealing with condominium conversions. BMC Section 17.90.110 (appeals only) (Resolution 07-63)
- 2007 - Amendment to mobile home park conversions. BMC Section 17.94.060 (appeals) (Resolution 07-64)

Energy Conservation

Program 6.01

Continue to distribute information on currently available weatherization and energy conservation programs.

Status of Program Implementation

Brochures are available at the Community Development Department counter at City Hall.

Beginning in 2008, the Community Development Department initiated new efforts to educate and bring awareness to the public about the long-term benefits of employing green building techniques, energy efficient construction methods, and use of sustainable materials.

This was brought to fruition through new display boards showcased at the Planning and Building Divisions. Information shown includes sustainable building materials, interior finishes, energy conservation, and low-water landscaping applications.

Other energy conservation efforts underway include completion of a Climate Action Plan (expected Summer 2009), which will be implemented and overseen by a new Sustainability Commission.

More recently, the Community Development Department organized the first City-sponsored Earth Day celebration, held on April 22, 2009. The event included a comprehensive exhibit of green building practices, water conservation methods, energy efficient lighting, low-water toilets, composting, rainwater harvesting, educational reading materials, electronic waste recycling, computer models to determine individual carbon footprints, and activities for kids. More than 200 residents attended. With this accomplishment, the City has decided make a commitment to host Earth Day events on an annual basis and set forth a holistic approach towards resource conservation.

Program 6.02

Implement state requirements for energy conservation in new residential projects and encourage residential developers to employ additional energy conservation measures with respect to siting of buildings, landscaping, and solar access. To facilitate implementation, the City will make available, in the Community Development and Building departments, brochures procured from PG&E which detail energy conservation measures for existing buildings, as well as new construction.

Status of Program Implementation

Brochures are available at the Community Development Department counter at City Hall.

The State Energy Code will be updated in August 2009 and will be enforced by the Building Division for all new and remodel residential projects.

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Chapter 4

Goals, Policies, & Programs

The fundamental components of a Housing Element include a statement of the community's goals and policies relative to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing. This Chapter sets forth goals, policies, and implementation programs to achieve the City's objective of providing a wide range of housing choices affordable to all segments of the community.

Goals represent the ideal future end relative to housing needs. Policies are statements to guide decision making regarding housing issues and provide a link between the goals and programs. Programs are actions the City will take to implement the policies in order to achieve the goals. Some of the programs include quantified targets e.g. the number of housing units that are expected to be constructed, conserved, or rehabilitated through implementation of programs through 2014. These targets represent measurable outcomes, which can be used to evaluate the success of the Housing Element in the future.

This Housing Element includes several new policies and programs intended to increase the range and amount of affordable housing types as well as housing rehabilitation in the City. While most of the new efforts will be initiated shortly after adoption of the Housing Element, full implementation and the intended results will take much longer to realize.

The City will annually evaluate the progress and effectiveness of these efforts in accordance with State law. The City's efforts to increase affordable housing should be viewed as long term, ongoing, and dynamic.

4.1 The Regulatory Environment

GOAL 1: BENICIA SHALL BE AN ACTIVE LEADER IN ATTAINING THE GOALS OF THE CITY'S HOUSING ELEMENT.

POLICY 1.01 TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND WITHIN THE CITY'S CONTROL, THE CITY SHALL FACILITATE THE PRODUCTION OF HOUSING THAT IS AFFORDABLE TO PEOPLE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF INCOMES.

Program 1.01

Work with the Housing Authority to coordinate affordable housing activities and maintain good working relations with other non-profit housing providers by:

- Consulting with the Housing Authority throughout every update of the Housing Element and also every year during the annual review of the Housing Element. Specifically, strategize to ensure the City's programs and the Housing Authority's programs are complementary and maximize limited housing resources;
- Continue to share information and priorities between the City, the Housing Authority, and other non-profit housing providers;
- Update the inventory of vacant and opportunity sites twice a year in January and July and provide this inventory to non-profit housing providers; and
- Inform the Housing Authority about units produced by the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (BMC 17.70.320) and other affordable projects.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department and Housing Authority
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 1.02

Continue to support the Benicia Housing Authority in their administration of the Section 8 housing voucher program and to apply for additional

vouchers, as appropriate.

Funding Source: HUD Section 8
Responsible Agency: City Council, Community Development Department, and Housing Authority
Timeframe: Ongoing, when eligible
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 1.03

Investigate the feasibility of joining a housing consortium to access a pooled source of funding for mortgage revenue bonds or mortgage credit certificates for the development of affordable housing and/or first-time homebuyer assistance. The City will investigate existing local consortiums and report to the City Council on the most appropriate consortium for Benicia based on cost, level of activity, and the potential for funding to benefit Benicia residents. Assuming the City identifies an appropriate consortium Benicia will take the necessary legal, administrative, and financial steps to become a member. The City would consult with the Housing Authority for relevant data and support during the process.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: 2012
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 1.04

The City will leverage financial resources and partner with the development community to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments. The City will apply for CDBG funding annually for this purpose.

Funding Source: General Fund, Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods (BEGIN) Program (provides down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers), and CDBG.
Responsible Agency: Community Development and Finance Departments
Timeframe: Apply for CDBG funding annually; Ongoing
Quantified Objective: Dependant on available funding

Program 1.05

Provide information at City Hall, other public locations, and on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us) to promote private, State, and federal homebuyer assistance programs to the public.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 1.02 THE CITY WILL EXPEDITE THE REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT INCLUDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS.

Program 1.06

Provide pre-application technical assistance to affordable housing providers to determine project feasibility and address zoning compliance issues in the most cost-effective and expeditious manner possible.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 1.03 EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOPICS AND SOLICIT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ALL ECONOMIC SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSING ELEMENT.

Program 1.07

Continue to educate the public on affordable housing through annual reporting to the Planning Commission and City Council. Current housing issues and recent accomplishments towards reaching the City's Quantified Objectives listed in the Housing Element will be addressed. This report will also serve as the annual report required by State law (§65400) for progress in implementing the City's General Plan, including the Housing Element. This report shall be sent to the Office of Planning and Research annually by April 1st. Notices will be sent to all members of the public and posted on the City's website. Educational

materials will be made available, as appropriate.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: City Council, Planning Commission, and Community Development Department
Timeframe: Annually, each April
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 1.04 THE CITY WILL REVIEW AND REVISE REGULATORY STANDARDS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH STATE HOUSING LAW.

Program 1.08

Continue to amend the Zoning Ordinance to comply with changes in the State Density Bonus law (Government Code Section §65915) and develop an outreach program to ensure its successful implementation.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: 5 units

Program 1.09

To encourage the development of second units, amend the Zoning Ordinance for second units (accessory dwelling units) and reduce fees. Modifications to City standards and procedures should include:

- Eliminate or reduce the 6,000 square foot minimum parcel size for second units outside the Historic Districts (for inside Historic Districts see Program 1.10);
- Allow units above or adjacent to the garage of a primary housing unit;
- Reduce parking standards for lots with second units. For example:
 - Allow exceptions to parking requirements for second units up to 400 square feet;
 - Allow for on-street parking spaces adjacent to the lot to count towards 50 percent of the parking requirement;
 - Eliminate the covered parking requirement for the primary residence, if an accessory dwelling unit is provided;

- Allow one of the required parking spaces in the front or exterior yard setback; and
- Allow tandem parking to meet the parking requirement for the primary residence and the accessory dwelling as long as both spaces are behind the front façade plane.
- Investigate additional reductions to sewer and water connection fees for second units; and
- Reduce or waive planning and building fees for affordable second units.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Community Development, Public Works, and Finance Departments; and City Council

Timeframe: December 2011

Quantified Objective: 10 units

Program 1.10

To expedite the approval process for second units the City will investigate the feasibility of developing second unit prototype or model plans for homeowners to use. It may be determined that another prototype would be necessary for historic districts. Use of these plans would reduce costs to homeowners, decrease the time for the approval process, and in historic districts these plans would help ensure preservation of the historic character is maintained. If such plans were approved for application in the historic districts, the City would consider reducing or eliminating the 6,000 square foot minimum parcel size in the historic districts.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: City Council and Community Development Department

Timeframe: Within one year of Housing Element adoption.

Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 1.05 THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Program 1.11

Continue to reduce the cost of providing affordable housing by:

- Providing a fast-track processing procedure for projects with very low-, low- and moderate-

income affordable housing units;

- Review annually, amend, and reduce to the extent feasible, the permit fee schedule as it affects small, efficient, and compact (e.g. 600 to 750 square feet) housing types;
- Defer, waive, or reduce certain development fees, portions of fees, or combinations of fees for the affordable portion of any project; and
- Amend the Benicia Municipal Code to include language directing the City Council to consider waiving or reducing fees when a project provides affordable housing units.
- Investigate revising or reducing parking requirements for affordable housing projects. Also investigate setting parking maximums.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: City Council and Community Development Department

Timeframe: Ongoing; amend Benicia Municipal Code, Chapter 1.20 by end of 2010.

Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 1.12

The City will provide, when possible, developer incentives such as expedited permit processing and fee deferrals for units that are affordable to lower income households. Benicia will promote these incentives to developers on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and during the application process.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Timeframe: Ongoing

Quantified Objective: 20 units

4.2 Accommodating Housing Units

GOAL 2: HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY AND MIX OF HOUSING TYPES TO MEET EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSING NEEDS. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY WILL ADHERE TO EFFICIENT LAND USE PATTERNS PLACING HOUSING NEAR TRANSIT AND SERVICES.

POLICY 2.01 REQUIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE INCLUSIONARY HOUSING PROGRAM.

Program 2.01

The City adopted an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance in 2000. The ordinance has not generated a significant number of affordable units nor accumulated any funds from in-lieu fees.

The City shall amend the Inclusionary Ordinance to: (1) encourage the production of affordable housing onsite by providing development incentives to make onsite construction more feasible; (2) increasing inclusionary fees to better recover the cost of building affordable housing; (3) specify a minimum percentage of units affordable to low versus moderate income households and (4) Provide city discretion to require onsite construction.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Within three years of Housing Element adoption.
Quantified Objective: 20 units

POLICY 2.02 MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL LAND IN APPROPRIATE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND ZONING CATEGORIES TO ACCOMMODATE THE CITY'S REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION.

POLICY 2.03 DISPERSE AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGHOUT THE CITY TO AVOID CONCENTRATION IN ANY ONE PART OF THE CITY.

Program 2.02

As part of its next General Plan update, the City shall establish efficient land use and development patterns that conserve resources, such as fuel, water and land, and allow for higher-density development in the vicinity of major transit nodes, set forth pedestrian-oriented development patterns, and preserve open space areas. These strategies are intended to reduce energy consumption, increase walkability and access to transit and services, reduce automobile trips, and

conserve land and water resources.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: General Plan Update to begin in 2010
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 2.03

To comply with State law requirements (Government Code Section 65583(c)(1) (A) and 65583(c)(1) (B) to address the 2007 - 2014 RHNA, the City shall amend the General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance to provide adequate sites for 213 very low and low-income units at a minimum of 20 dwelling units per acre "by right" on certain sites or in certain zones. At least half (50%) of these sites shall be zoned for residential uses only.

Meeting these requirements can include analyzing the constrained and opportunity sites identified by the City (see Appendix C), amending the General Commercial Zone to allow more residential uses, and rezoning some sites to higher densities, for example rezoning RS to RM or RH. Adjacent uses and densities and the availability of services and transit should be considered when evaluating sites for higher density housing.

A list of potential vacant sites for rezoning is included in Appendix I. It remains to be determined which, if any, of these sites will be rezoned and the City will not be limited to this list of sites for potential rezoning. Program 2.04 addresses potential rezoning and redevelopment of underutilized opportunity sites.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Within the planning period
Quantified Objective: 213 units (for Programs 2.03 and 2.04)

Program 2.04

The City has identified a preliminary list of underutilized parcels that could be rezoned for higher-density residential uses and redeveloped to provide affordable housing. Appendix J provides a list of potential sites to be rezoned. Some of the sites include Solano Square (which falls within

the City's Priority Development Area, see Policy 2.06), Southampton Center shopping center, and the Benicia Senior Center site. It remains to be determined which if any of these sites will be rezoned and the City will not be limited to this list of sites for potential rezoning and redevelopment.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Within the planning period
Quantified Objective: 213 units (for Programs 2.03 and 2.04)

Program 2.05

Establish a housing trust fund to be funded by inclusionary in-lieu fees and other sources, as appropriate. This fund will be used to support affordable housing activities such as an equity share program, site acquisition, write down of land costs, subsidization of rents and mortgages, site improvements, and the provision of collateral for development loans.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: City Council, Planning Commission, Community Development Department, Economic Development Manager, and Housing Authority
Timeframe: Ongoing, establish if in-lieu fees or other source are collected
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 2.06

Amend the General Commercial (CG) zoning district to allow additional residential uses. Currently only live/work units are allowed in this zone.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: 2011
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 2.07

Consider implementing an affordable housing linkage fee on nonresidential development to support the development of workforce housing.

This ordinance should consider alternatives to paying the fee such as construction of housing on-site, construction of housing off-site, and dedication of land for housing.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department and Economic Development Manager
Timeframe: Within the planning period
Quantified Objective: 15 units

POLICY 2.04 SEEK APPROPRIATE PRIVATE, LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUBSIDIZE COSTS OF HOUSING FOR VERY LOW-, LOW-, AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN BENICIA.

POLICY 2.05 ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND- AND THIRD-STORY RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN ALONG FIRST STREET IN DOWNTOWN BENICIA.

Program 2.08

The City will monitor available funding sources and activities to pursue based on competitive funding considerations, the funding cycles of various State and federal sources, and housing provider interest.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 2.06 THE CITY OF BENICIA WILL WORK WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS (ABAG) TO CREATE A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PATTERN THAT IS COMPACT AND CONNECTED AND ENCOURAGES FUTURE POPULATION AND HOUSING IN AREAS NEAR TRANSIT. FUTURE GROWTH IN THE CITY OF BENICIA WILL BE TARGETED TOWARDS PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS (PDAs) WITHIN CITY LIMITS, WHERE A DIVERSITY OF HOUSING, JOBS, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICES ARE PRESENT TO MEET THE DAILY NEEDS OF RESIDENTS. THE MAP OF THE PDA CAN BE FOUND IN APPENDIX K.

Program 2.09

Consult with and apply for financial assistance from the FOCUS program of ABAG for any project within the Priority Development Area, including

but not limited to the Solano Square and Senior Center neighborhood retrofit and opportunity site projects.

Funding Source: General Fund and ABAG
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing as funding opportunities arise
Quantified Objective: n/a

4.3 Special Needs

GOAL 3: ACCOMMODATE THE HOUSING NEEDS OF SPECIAL POPULATION GROUPS.

POLICY 3.01 FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, HOUSING FOR SENIORS, AND HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, OR MENTAL DISABILITIES.

Program 3.01

Amend the Zoning Ordinance to comply with SB 2, the "Fair Share Zoning" law, permitting emergency shelters without a use permit or other discretionary permits in the RS, RM, and RH zoning districts and define transitional and supportive housing as residential uses subject to the same standards that apply to other housing.

Location criteria include:

- Proximity of public transit, supportive services, and commercial services

Operation criteria include:

- Hours of operation;
- External lighting and noise;
- Provision of security measures for the proper operation and management of a proposed facility;
- Measures to avoid queues of individuals outside proposed facility; and
- Compliance with county and State health and safety requirements for food, medical, and other supportive services provided on-site.

Such criteria can act to encourage and facilitate homeless shelters and transitional housing through clear and unambiguous guidelines for the

application review process, the basis for approval, and the terms and conditions of approval.

The City will solicit input from local service providers (e.g., Community Action Council) in the preparation and adoption of the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that development standards and permit processing will not impede the approval and/or development of emergency and transitional housing. The City will select zoning district(s) in which there are existing vacant or underutilized sites that could accommodate at least one facility.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Within 1 year after adoption of Housing Element
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 3.02

Pursuant to the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and the requirements of Chapter 671, Statutes of 2001 (Senate Bill 520), the City will adopt a reasonable accommodation ordinance addressing rules, policies, practices and procedures that may be necessary to ensure equal access to housing for those with disabilities. The City will promote its reasonable accommodations procedures on its web site and with handouts at City Hall.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: December 2011
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 3.02 SUPPORT SOLANO COUNTY AND THE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL (CAC) IN APPLYING FOR FUNDS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LOCAL AND COUNTY FACILITIES FOR HOMELESS PERSONS THROUGH LETTERS OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY THE CITY MANAGER AND CONTINUANCE OF AN ANNUAL ALLOCATION FROM THE CITY'S BUDGET.

Program 3.03

The City will assist the CAC in promoting the availability of resources by posting notifications on

the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us). The CAC is part of Countywide consortium of community service groups who join together in applying for applicable State and federal funds for their organizations. They have found this collaborative approach, supported by their respective governmental jurisdictions, much more successful than if each individual agency applied for funds.

Funding Source: General Fund and Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Program (a federal law that created funding for homeless assistance programs)
Responsible Agency: Community Development and Finance Departments, City Manager, and Community Action Council
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 3.03 WORK WITH THE BENICIA COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL (CAC) AND THE BENICIA HOUSING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS IN BENICIA.

Program 3.04

Continue to refer persons in need of transitional housing assistance to the CAC. Meet annually with the CAC to determine the need for transitional housing facilities.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department and Community Action Council
Timeframe: Meet annually; ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 3.04 TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE THE CITY WILL SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING SERVING LARGE FAMILIES AND FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS.

Program 3.05

The City will provide for needed social services in all City funded affordable housing projects. These services should address the needs of single mothers and families and could include childcare, counseling, and education. If necessary, the zoning ordinance will be amended to allow these uses at these project locations.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

4.4 Preserve and Maintain Housing Stock

GOAL 4: HOMES IN BENICIA ARE PRESERVED AND WELL-MAINTAINED.

POLICY 4.01 APPLY FOR PRIVATE, STATE, AND FEDERAL FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO REHABILITATE HOMES WHERE NEEDED.

Program 4.01

Annually review existing homes to determine the need for additional rehabilitation funding. Announce the availability of such funds through posting notices on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us) and providing flyers at the Community Action Council, Benicia Housing Authority, Benicia Library, and the City's Community Development Department.

Funding Source: CDBG funds, California Self-Help Housing Program, and CHFA funds
Responsible Agency: City Manager, Community Development Department, and Non-Profit Developer(s).
Timeframe: Annually review existing available resources and apply, as needed, for additional state funding
Quantified Objective: 15 units rehabilitated

POLICY 4.02 ENCOURAGE PRIVATE REINVESTMENT IN OLDER RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS AND PRIVATE REHABILITATION OF HOUSING, PARTICULARLY FOR SEISMIC SAFETY.

Program 4.02

Prepare standard specifications for seismic retrofitting of existing residential structures to assist property owners in meeting current seismic safety standards. Seismic retrofitting will continue to be an eligible activity under the City's housing rehabilitation program. The City will promote its seismic retrofitting program through a distribution brochure at City Hall, other public locations, and on the City of Benicia's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us).

Funding Source: General Fund, Building Permit Fees, and CDBG Funds
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 4.03 LIMIT THE CONVERSION OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES TO NON-RESIDENTIAL USES AND AFFORDABLE UNITS TO MARKET-RATE.

Program 4.03

Continue to implement procedures applicable to inclusionary for-sale units, such as the resale control mechanism, equity recapture, qualifications for subsequent buyers, and other relevant issues that are not listed in the inclusionary housing ordinance, to ensure ongoing affordability.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: City Manager and Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 4.04 STRONGLY ENCOURAGE CONTINUED UPKEEP OF EXISTING ECONOMICALLY VIABLE MOBILE HOME PARKS, AND WORK WITH THE STATE TO ENSURE REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.

Program 4.04

Contact the owners of the mobile home parks to determine future plans and the feasibility of continuing mobile home park use. The City will work with the owners to ensure maintenance, upkeep, and compliance with State regulations. If appropriate, the City will assist the owner in accessing State or federal funds for improvements to substandard or dilapidated parks and units or in converting the park to resident ownership. Maintaining affordable units in mobile homes parks will be a priority of the City.

The City will also continue to implement its mobile home park conversion ordinance to ensure that any conversion of a mobile home park is preceded with adequate notice and relocation assistance. A relocation plan must be submitted to the Planning Commission for approval as part of the application

for conversion.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department and HCD.
Timeframe: December 2010 (contact owners)
Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 4.05 PURSUANT TO STATE LAW (RECOGNIZING LIMITED ALLOWED CIRCUMSTANCES) THE CITY WILL COUNT EXISTING UNITS TOWARD MEETING THEIR REGIONAL HOUSING NEED. THE CITY MAY TAKE CREDIT FOR EXISTING UNITS THAT WILL BE: (1) SUBSTANTIALLY REHABILITATED, (2) CONVERTED FROM NON-AFFORDABLE TO AFFORDABLE (MULTIFAMILY RENTAL HOUSING OF 4 OR MORE UNITS), OR (3) PRESERVED AT AFFORDABLE HOUSING COSTS TO LOW OR VERY LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.

Program 4.05

As new projects, code enforcement actions, and other opportunities arise, the City will investigate ways to meet its housing needs through rehabilitation and preservation of existing units.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 4.06

The City will maintain a record of any units rehabilitated and made affordable or converted to affordable and include the data in their annual report to HCD.

Funding Source: General Fund
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Timeframe: Ongoing and annually, every April
Quantified Objective: n/a

4.5 Equal Access

GOAL 5: ENSURE EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PERSONS IN BENICIA REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION,

SEX, MARITAL STATUS, ANCESTRY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, COLOR, DISABILITY, FAMILY STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, OR SOURCE OF INCOME.

POLICY 5.01 CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A POINT OF CONTACT FOR REFERRAL OF DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS.

Program 5.01

Implement the complaint referral process for those persons who believe they have been denied access to housing because of their race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, or disability, family status, sexual orientation, source of income, or political affiliation. The City will educate selected staff in the Community Development, City Attorney, and City Manager departments on responding to complaints received regarding potential claims of housing discrimination. The selected personnel will be given a typed handout detailing the process for someone with a complaint and the agencies that should be contacted regarding a claim:

Solano County District Attorney's office, California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, San Francisco Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing, Legal Services of Northern California (Solano County Vallejo office), and ECHO (non-profit housing advocacy group).

The City Attorney's office will be notified and a log maintained of all complaints received. Information regarding the housing discrimination complaint referral process is made available by the Benicia Housing Authority and CAC to their clients. This information is available on the City's website (www.ci.benicia.ca.us). The City will maintain a supply of complaint forms and informational brochures at City Hall.

Funding Source: General Fund and CDBG Funds

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Timeframe: Ongoing

Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 5.02 THE CITY SHALL WORK WITH HOMEBUILDERS TO ENCOURAGE UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELS. UNIVERSAL DESIGN IS BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THROUGHOUT LIFE, PEOPLE MAY

EXPERIENCE CHANGES IN THEIR ABILITIES. THE GOAL OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN IS TO DESIGN ENVIRONMENTS TO BE USABLE BY ALL PEOPLE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ADAPTATION OR SPECIALIZED DESIGN.

Program 5.02

The City will have brochures on universal design available at the planning counter in the Community Development Department. The City will also consider writing development standards to encourage use of universal design in home design.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Timeframe: Within one year of Housing Element adoption.

Quantified Objective: n/a

4.6 Energy Efficiency & Conservation

GOAL 6: HOUSING IN BENICIA IS ENERGY EFFICIENT.

POLICY 6.01 ENFORCE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION IN NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS AND ENCOURAGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPERS TO EMPLOY ADDITIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO SITING OF BUILDINGS, LANDSCAPING, AND SOLAR ACCESS.

POLICY 6.02 ENFORCE THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS IN NEW HOUSING AND ENCOURAGE THE INSTALLATION OF ENERGY SAVING DEVICES IN PRE-1975 HOUSING.

Program 6.01

Each year, the City will celebrate Earth Day using a holistic approach to educate and bring awareness to the public about the long-term benefits of energy conservation and efficiency in housing.

Funding Source: General Fund

Responsible Agency: Community Development Department

Timeframe: Annual event

Quantified Objective: n/a

Program 6.02

To facilitate implementation, the City will make available, in the Community Development Department, brochures from PG&E and others that detail energy conservation measures for existing buildings, as well as new construction.

Funding Source: General Fund
 Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
 Timeframe: Ongoing
 Quantified Objective: n/a

POLICY 6.03 ENCOURAGE GREEN BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS IN NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REDEVELOPMENT TO ACHIEVE INCREASED ENERGY CONSERVATION.

Program 6.03

The City shall establish regulations requiring the development of environmentally sustainable buildings. The Build It Green “GreenPoint Rated” certification system shall be used when possible or followed to the extent possible when certification isn’t a realistic goal for a building. The GreenPoint Rated system can be applied to new and existing single-family and multi-family residential buildings. Possible targets include:

- Investigate the possibility of achieving GreenPoint Rated certification for all affordable housing projects constructed in the City. Work with developers of affordable projects to achieve this goal.
- Provide other cost savings incentives to developers or project proponents of projects that achieve GreenPoint Rated Certification both in new and existing affordable housing projects

Funding Source: General Fund
 Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
 Timeframe: Ongoing
 Quantified Objective: n/a

Green Building Certification Programs

BUILD IT GREEN

GreenPoint Rated - Certification system applicable to single- and multi-family residential buildings.



Buildings must satisfy checklists on resource conservation, indoor air quality, water conservation, community, and energy efficiency. Build It Green originated in the San Francisco Bay Area.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

LEED - Certification system applicable to commercial or residential buildings. An entire community can also receive a LEED evaluation. Buildings can achieve various rating based on their level of sustainability and energy efficiency both in the products used and in the long-term performance of the building. LEED measures performance in the following categories: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

4.7 Summary of Quantified Objectives

Table 4.1 summarizes the quantified objectives for all the above programs. The City anticipates that 288 units will be provided by new construction and that 15 units will be rehabilitated or conserved. The number of units provided by the rezoning programs 2.03 and 2.04 represent the RHNA allocation of 246 of very low and low-income units minus the number of units that could be produced by the vacant land currently zoned for high density residential development (33 units). This calculation is how the 213 units produced by the rezoning programs was arrived at. Each of the other programs with quantified objectives shown in Table 4.1 would also contribute to meeting the RHNA allocation and providing additional affordable housing in Benicia.

Table 4.1 Summary of Quantified Objectives

Remaining Regional Housing Needs Allocation	Income Categories				Total
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above-Moderate	
	147	99	108	77	431
Programs					
New Construction					
1.08	2	3	0	0	5
1.09	0	2	8	0	10
1.12	5	10	5	0	20
2.01	5	5	10	0	20
2.03 and 2.04	50	163	0	0	213
2.07	5	5	5	0	15
New Construction Subtotal	67	188	28	0	283
Rehabilitation					
4.01	5	5	5	0	15
Total	72	193	33	0	298

Source: City of Benicia

Appendix A

Existing Housing Needs

This section addresses existing housing needs, employment, and housing characteristics within the community. The analysis includes a description of population, employment, household incomes, housing stock, and comparisons with the surrounding region. Comparisons are made with Solano County and Suisun City. Suisun City was selected as a relatively comparable jurisdiction in terms of size and community issues within Solano County so falling within the same Regional Housing Needs Allocation area. Regional comparisons provide a frame of reference for statistics in the City of Benicia. The following subsections are included in this appendix:

- Age Distribution
- Race/Ethnicity
- Employment by Industry
- Civilian Labor Force
- Household Growth Trends
- Households by Tenure
- Households by Income
- Overpayment
- Overcrowding
- Extremely Low Income Housing Needs
- Housing Unit and Property Conditions
- Age of Housing Stock
- Cost of Housing
- Housing Units by Type
- Occupancy/Vacancy
- Assisted Housing Developments At-Risk for Conversion
- Affordability

Table A.1 depicts the population increase in the City of Benicia (the City), Suisun City, and Solano County between 1990 and 2008. The City grew by over 10 percent (1 percent annual growth) between 1990 and 2000. Growth slowed to 4 percent between 2000 and 2008 (0.5 percent annual growth). The growth in nearby Suisun City was higher between 1990 and 2000 at 15 percent (1.5 percent average annual growth) and between 2000 and 2008 at 7 percent (0.8 percent average annual growth). Growth in Solano County between 1990 and 2000 was 16 percent (1.6 percent average annual growth) and 8 percent (1 percent average annual growth) between 2000 and 2008.

Table A.1 Population Growth Trends, 1990-2008

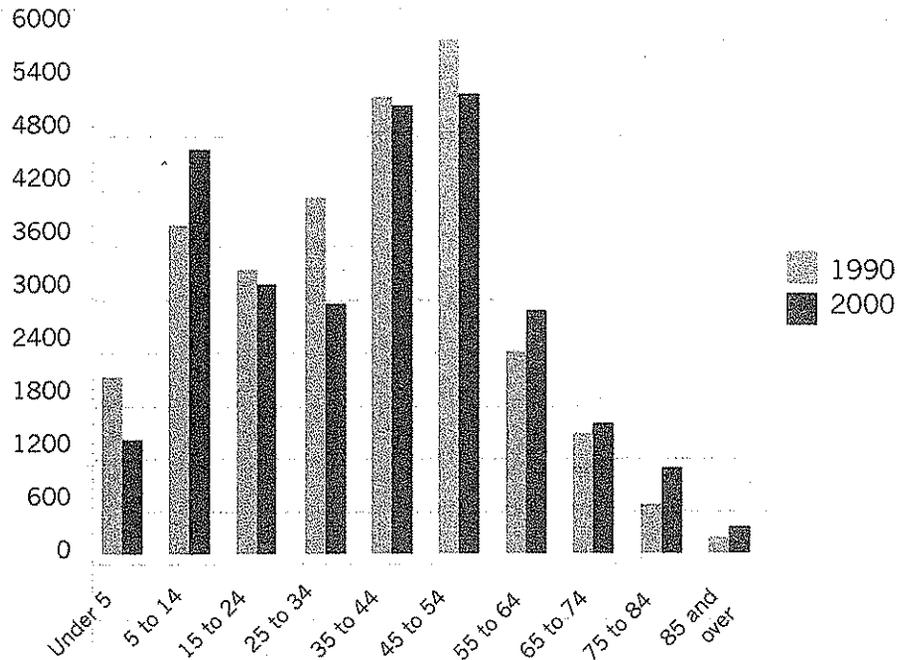
County/City	Benicia	Suisun City	Solano County
1990	24,437	22,686	340,421
Percent Change 1990 to 2000	10%	15%	16%
2000	26,865	26,118	394,542
Percent Change 2000 to 2008	4%	7%	8%
2008	27,978	28,193	426,757

Source: U.S. Census

Age Distribution

Figure A.1 identifies the change in age distribution between 1990 and 2000. The reduction in the number of people in the 25 to 34 age category and under 5 age category indicate that young families may have left the City during this time period.

Figure A.1 Age Distribution: Benicia, 1990 - 2000



Source: U.S. Census

Race/Ethnicity

In 2000, the majority of the City's population was white (79 percent). By ethnicity, the population was 9 percent Hispanic or Latino (see Table A.2).

Table A.2 City of Benicia: Race/Ethnicity, 2000

Race	All Ages	
Total Population (Race)	26,967	100%
White	21,297	79%
Black or African American	1,181	4%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	67	<1%
Asian	1,941	7%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	50	<1%
Other	680	3%
Two or more races	1,751	6%
Ethnicity	All Ages	
Total Population (Ethnicity)	26,967	100%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,467	9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	24,500	91%

Source: U.S. Census

Employment by Industry

As of the 2000 Census, the City had 14,196 persons employed (See Table A.3). The largest industry sections were education, health, and social services (21.5 percent), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (11 percent), and manufacturing (10 percent).

Table A.4 identifies the major employers in the City in 2008. They include Valero Refining Company, Institutional Financing Service, and Bio-Rad Laboratories. According to the County Business Patterns Study, there are 11,908 jobs in Benicia.

Table A.3 City of Benicia: Employment by Industry, 2000

Profession	Number	Percent
Educational, health and social services	3,052	21.5%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	1,547	10.9%
Manufacturing	1,446	10.2%
Retail trade	1,355	9.5%
Finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing	1,303	9.2%
Construction	1,052	7.4%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	1,043	7.3%
Public administration	848	6.0%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	783	5.5%
Information	600	4.2%
Wholesale trade	543	3.8%
Other services (except public administration)	510	3.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	57	0.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	45	0.3%
Mining	12	0.1%
Total	14,196	100%

Source: U.S. Census

Table A.4 City of Benicia: Major Employers, 2008

Employer	Number of Employees	Type of Business
1. City of Benicia	223	Government
2. Valero Refining Company	480	Petroleum Refining
3. Institutional Financing Service	170	Sale of Gift Items to Schools
4. Bio-Rad Laboratories	168	Manufacture Hematology Products
5. Radiator Express Warehouse	147	Distributor of Radiators
6. Coca-Cola Bottling Company	142	Soft Drink Delivery
7. The Pepsi Bottling Group	134	Soft Drink Manufacturing
8. Dunlop Manufacturing	130	Manuf./Dist. Musical Accessories
9. Henry Wine Group	116	Import/Distribute Wine Spirits
10. APS West Coast, Inc.	115	Operate Port of Benicia
11. Cytosport	109	Dietary Sport & Nutrition Products

Source: City of Benicia, Economic Development Division

Civilian Labor Force

Table A.5 identifies the number of residents who are categorized as the civilian labor force. As of 2000, the 14,681 residents in the City who fall into this category, 14,139 (96 percent) were employed. The figures were similar in the County, 94 percent of persons within the civilian labor force in Solano County were employed.

Table A.5 Civilian Labor Force, 2000

County/City	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Percent Employed
Benicia	14,681	14,139	96%
Suisun City	12,740	11,943	94%
Solano County	183,595	172,355	94%

Source: U.S. Census

Household Growth Trends

The U.S. Census defines a household as persons occupying a housing unit for their residence. Similar to the growth in population, there has been a steady rate of growth in the number in households within the City. Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 12 percent increase (1,117 units) in the number of households, from 9,208 to 10,325. Households increased over 10 percent (982 units) between 2000 and 2008 (see Table A.6).

Table A.6 City of Benicia: Household Growth Trends, 1990 & 2000

Year	Households	Numerical Change	Percent Change
1990	9,208	-	-
2000	10,325	1,117	12%
2008	11,307	982	10%

Source: U.S. Census

Households by Tenure

Tenure refers to the distinction between owner-occupied and renter-occupied units. The ratio between owner and renter households remained relatively flat. In 1990, 70 percent of households were owners, and, in 2000, about 71 percent of households were owners (see Table A.7).

Table A.7 City of Benicia: Households by Tenure, 1990 & 2000

	1990: Number		2000: Number	
Owner	6,458	70%	7,300	71%
Renter	2,750	30%	3,025	29%
Total	9,208	100%	10,325	100%

Source: U.S. Census

Households by Income

Table A.8 provides the median household income for California, Solano County, Benicia, and Suisun City in 1990 and 2000. According to the U.S. Census, the median household income in the City increased from \$49,660 to \$67,617 (36 percent increase) from 1990 to 2000. The median household income in 2000 for the State was \$48,000.

Table A.8 Median Household Income, 1990 & 2000

Year	1990	2000
State of California	\$35,798	\$47,493
Solano County	\$39,113	\$54,099
Suisun City	\$49,660	\$67,617
Benicia	\$40,865	\$60,848

Source: U.S. Census

Table A.9 depicts the distribution of income for the City, Suisun City, and Solano County. As of 2000, 40 percent or 4,183 households in the City had a combined income between \$45,000 - \$99,999. Over 28 percent (2,909 households) of the 10,325 total households in the City earned over \$100,000.

Table A.9 Households by Income

City/County	\$0 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$44,999	\$45,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 +	Total
Benicia	1,516 15%	1,742 17%	4,183 40%	2,909 28%	10,350
Suisun City	1,074 14%	1,414 18%	4,312 54%	1,141 14%	7,941
Solano County	21,830 17%	28,122 22%	56,321 44%	21,495 17%	127,768

Source: U.S. Census

Overpayment

Overpayment is defined as paying more than 30 percent of household income on housing costs, including utilities. In 2000, approximately 32 percent (2,024 units) of owner-occupied households in the City were overpaying for housing and 37 percent (1,103 units) of renter-occupied households were overpaying for housing (See Tables A.10 and A.11).

Table A.10 City of Benicia: Overpayment: Owner-Occupied Units, 2000

Income Range	Total Households	0-20% of HH Income	20-29% of HH Income	30-34% of HH Income	35+% of HH Income
\$0 - 10,000	87 1%	0	6	0	54
\$10,000 - 19,999	213 3%	27	32	35	119
\$20,000 - 34,999	456 7%	127	61	0	268
\$35,000 - 49,999	603 10%	109	98	82	314
\$50,000 -	4,977 79%	2,358	1,460	509	643
Subtotal	6,336 100%	2,621	1,657	626	1,398

Note: Each of the income range categories included a number for "not computed," therefore the numbers under each percent range do not add up to total households number

Source: U.S. Census

Table A.11 City of Benicia: Overpayment: Renter-Occupied Units, 2000

Income Range	Total Households		0-20% of HH Income	20-29% of HH Income	30-34% of HH Income	35+% of HH Income
\$0 - 10,000	267	9%	0	32	7	152
\$10,000 - 19,999	360	12%	32	30	25	258
\$20,000 - 34,999	557	18%	34	97	113	313
\$35,000 - 49,999	667	22%	96	373	77	114
\$50,000 +	1,164	39%	745	352	44	0
Subtotal	3,015	100%	907	884	266	837

Note: Each of the income range categories included a number for "not computed," therefore the numbers under each percent range do not add up to total households number

Source: U.S. Census

Overcrowding

Overcrowding is defined by the U.S. Census as a household occupied by more than one person per room. In 2000, 1.5 percent of owner-occupied households were overcrowded while 8.8 percent of renter-occupied households in the City were overcrowded (see Table A.12).

Overcrowding is linked to a decreased quality of life for the occupants and can add stress to the physical condition of the dwelling. Additionally, overcrowding is identified as being linked to overpayment for housing, where the high cost of housing forces families into smaller units.

Table A.12 City of Benicia: Overcrowded Households, 2000

Owner occupied	7,300 units	Percent
0-50 or less occupants per room	5,593	77
0.51 to 1.00 occupants per room	1,594	22
1.01 to 1.50 occupants per room	91	0.7
1.51 to 2.00 occupants per room	22	0.3
2.01 or more occupants per room	0	0
Percent Overcrowded by Tenure	113 (1.5%) total overcrowded owner-occupied units	
Renter occupied	3,025 units	Percent
0-50 or less occupants per room	1,861	62
0.51 to 1.00 occupants per room	897	30
1.01 to 1.50 occupants per room	153	5
1.51 to 2.00 occupants per room	100	2.6
2.01 or more occupants per room	14	0.4
Percent Overcrowded by Tenure	267 (8.8%) total overcrowded rental units	
Total	9,361	

Source: U.S. Census

Extremely Low Income Housing Needs

Extremely low income households earn 30 percent or less of median household income. Of the 10,325 households in the City, 432 renters and 232 owners (about 6 percent of all households) have household incomes less than 30 percent of median income. As Table A.13 illustrates, these households have a high percentage of housing problems and a greater cost burden than other households with those overpaying ranging from 60% to 77% as compared with 32% to 37% for all households (Tables A.9 and A.10). The RHNA for Benicia estimates 147 very low income housing units will need to be constructed between 2007 and 2014. Based on State law methodology, the City estimates that 50 percent of its very low income housing allocation are extremely low income households. Therefore, it is projected that 74 households will be extremely low income.

Table A.13 City of Benicia: Housing Problems for All Households CHAS¹ Data Book

	Renters	Percent Renters	Owners	Percent Owners	Total ELI Households	Percent Total ELI Households
Household Income <= 30 Percent MFI	432	100%	232	100%	664	100%
Percent with any housing problems	341	78.9%	141	60.6%	482	69.6%
Percent Housing Cost Burden >30%	331	76.7%	141	60.6%	472	68.5%
Percent Housing Cost Burden >50%	139	32.2%	120	51.6%	259	42.0%

¹CHAS stands for Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Source: CHAS Databook

Housing Unit and Property Conditions

A Citywide housing conditions survey was conducted by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) in April 2002 as part of the last Housing Element update. The exterior housing condition of each unit was evaluated based upon State Housing and Community Development (HCD) adopted criteria, which rates the condition of the foundation, roofing, siding, windows, and doors. The April 2002 study focused on single-family, multi-family, and mobile home parks in specific areas that were selected by City staff as having less than standard housing conditions. Results of the survey are in Table A.14. The City's housing stock is generally in very good condition, with the exception of one mobile home park with trailers in need or replacement or rehabilitation.

Housing conditions have not changed substantially since the survey was completed, and therefore, a new survey was not deemed necessary at this time. In addition, the City has several ongoing programs to help address the need for rehabilitation and repair of lower income units.

Table A.14 City of Benicia: 2002 Survey Breakdown by Type of Substandard Housing Unit

	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Mobile Home/ Trailers	TOTAL	Percent of Total Housing Units (2000)
Minor	67	52	35	154	1%
Moderate	31	28	0	59	<1%
Substantial	1	0	0	1	<.01%
Dilapidated	4	0	54	58	<1%
Total Substandard	103	80	89	272	2%
Percent of Total HU (2000)	1%	<1%	<1%	2%	

Source: Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), Housing Conditions Survey, 2002

Age of Housing Stock

Most of the City's housing stock is fairly new. The majority of housing in the City was built between 1970 and 1990 (see Table A.15). According to the 2000 Census, about 13 percent of the housing stock has been built since 1990.

Table A.15 City of Benicia: Age of Housing Stock

Units	Number	Percent
Built 1990 to March 2000	1,374	13%
Built 1980 to 1989	3,408	32%
Built 1970 to 1979	3,285	31%
Built 1960 to 1969	658	6%
Built 1950 to 1959	595	6%
Built 1940 to 1949	666	6%
Built 1939 or earlier	566	5%
Total	10,552	100%

Source: U.S. Census

Cost of Housing

As of the 2000 Census, the median rent in the City was \$892 per month while the average home value was \$274,600. These numbers were higher than the County, which had an average rent of \$797 per month and an average home value of \$178,300. Suisun City's rents were \$870 per month and Suisun City had an average home value of \$160,700 (see Table A.16).

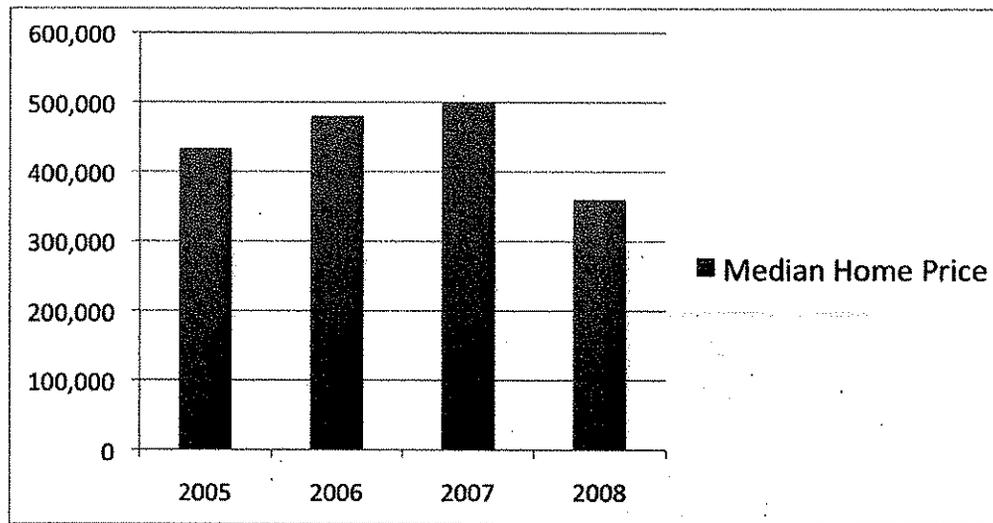
Table A.16 Median Owner-Value/Gross Rent, 1990 & 2000

County/City	Median Gross Rent, 1989	Median Gross Rent, 1999	Median Owner-Value, 1989	Median Owner-Value, 1999
Benicia	672	892	202,800	274,600
Suisun City	610	870	139,800	160,700
Solano County	590	797	147,200	178,300

Source: U.S. Census

More recent figures show that the median home price peaked in 2007 at approximately \$500,000. Between 2007 and 2008, the median price for a home in the City dropped over 28 percent from \$500,000 to 360,000 (see Figure A.2). However, both Suisun City and Solano County saw larger drops in home prices. Suisun City suffered a 42 percent drop in median home prices between 2007 and 2008, from \$395,000 to \$229,000. Solano County saw a 37 percent decrease in median home prices from \$416,000 to \$262,000 between 2007 and 2008.

Figure A.2 City of Benicia: Median Home Prices



Source: California Association of Realtors, 2008

Housing Units by Type

Table A.17 identifies the makeup of the City's housing stock, which is largely made up of single-family detached residences, and has remained relatively constant between 1990 and 2008. As of 2008, 66 percent of single-family is single-family detached housing. However, structures with 50 or more units increased from 208 in 1990 to 439 in 2000. (This figure was not reported on by DOF in 2008).

Table A.17 City of Benicia: Housing Units by Type, 1990, 2000 & 2008

	1990		2000		2008	
1- detached	6,154	64%	6,815	65%	7,428	66%
1- attached	954	10%	1,045	10%	1,049	9%
2	261	3%	208	2%	944	8%
3 or 4	577	6%	708	7%		
5 to 9	532	14%	429	14%	1,560	14%
10 to 19	280		281			
20 to 49	242		301			
50 or more	208		439			
Mobile home or trailer	348	4%	317	3%	326	2%
Other	31	0.3%	9	0.1%	-	-
Total	9587	100%	10,552	100%	11,307	100%

Source: U.S. Census, Department of Finance E-5 Report

Occupancy/Vacancy

As of 2000, approximately 98 percent (10,325 units) of the total 10,552 units in the City were identified as occupied. Table A.18 depicts the number of units identified as vacant by the 2000 U.S. Census. Most of the 227 vacant units were categorized as for rent or for sale.

Table A.18 Vacant Units by Type, 2000

	Benicia	Percent of Total Units (10,552 units)
For Rent	86	<1%
For Sale	48	<1%
Rented or sold, not occupied	31	<1%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	48	<1%
For migrant workers	0	0
Other vacant	14	<1%
Total Vacant	227	2%

Source: U.S. Census

Assisted Housing Developments At-Risk for Conversion

Per State law, this section evaluates the City's affordable housing that is at-risk of converting to market rates. There is one project at risk of converting to market rates currently in the City, the Hearthstone Project. The Hearthstone Project is made up of 12 very low- and low-income units and is on a 10 year deed restriction from the time of initial occupancy which was in 2003. Therefore, the deed will be up for renewal in 2013. The Benicia Housing Authority anticipates renewing the deed restrictions for this development. According to the Housing Authority, the rest of the affordable projects in the City are on leases restricting the rents (very low- and low-income) for 20 to 40 years. None of these leases are due to expire during the 2007-2014 planning period.

The potential loss of existing affordable housing units is an important issue to the City due to displacement of lower-income tenants and the limited alternative housing for such persons. It is typically less expensive to preserve the affordability of existing units than to subsidize construction of new affordable units due to the rising cost of land and construction. Appendix D covers Housing Authority resources, programs, and developments.

Affordability

Housing affordability can be inferred by comparing the cost of renting or owning a home to the household income. Monthly housing costs (either mortgage and other homeowner costs or rent and other monthly housing costs) of 30 percent or less are considered affordable. Table A.19 shows the annual median income for a family of four in Solano County and the maximum amount that should be paid for housing costs.

Very Low Income Households

The median household income for a very low income family of four is \$37,700. Based on this income level, the maximum affordable home price is \$131,000 or an estimated \$943 in monthly rent (including utilities). As a result, very low income households cannot afford to purchase a single-family home, as the median price for a house in 2008 was \$350,000 (down 28 percent from \$500,000 in 2007). With the exception of very small apartments, and mobile home rentals, very low income households are also unable to afford the cost of virtually all apartment rentals in the City without assuming a high housing cost burden (greater than 30% of income). Apartment rents range from about \$775 to \$1,450.

Low Income Households

The median household income for a low income family of four is \$60,300. Based on this income level, the maximum affordable home price is \$225,000 or an estimated \$1,500 in monthly rent (including utilities). As a result, low income households cannot afford to purchase a single-family home without a high housing cost burden, but could afford some rental units.

Moderate Income Households

The median household income for a moderate-income family of four is \$90,500. Based on this income level, the maximum affordable home price is \$350,000 or an estimated \$2,263 in monthly rent (including utilities). As a result, moderate income households can afford single-family homes in the City and many rental units.

Table A.19 Solano County: Affordability

	Very Low	Low	Moderate
Median Household Income (2008)	\$37,700	\$60,300	\$90,500
Affordable Monthly Housing Cost	\$943	\$1,508	\$2,263
Utilities, Taxes, Insurance	\$285	\$385	\$515
Affordable Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$658	\$1,123	\$1,748
Estimated Affordable Mortgage	\$109,000	\$188,000	\$291,000
Estimated Affordable Home Price	\$131,000	\$225,000	\$350,000

Notes:

1. Based on households allocating 30% of their monthly earnings toward housing cost.
2. Based on a conventional 30-year loan, 6% interest and a 20% down payment.

Source: Lisa Wise Consulting, 2009

Appendix B

Special Housing Needs

This section provides an analysis of special needs groups, which includes persons with disabilities, elderly, large families, female-headed households, farmworkers, and families or persons in need of emergency shelter. Individuals falling into these categories are often faced with a higher cost of living or have trouble accessing goods and services. By identifying individuals in these categories, appropriate programs can be developed to assist in providing adequate housing types.

Persons with Disabilities

According to the U.S. Census, a disability is a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to conduct activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to venture outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Housing needs for those with disabilities vary depending on the severity of the disability type. Many disabled persons live in their own home, in an independent situation, or with other family members. While figures provided by the Census provide useful information regarding the disabled population, not all disabilities require the need for accessible (based on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards) or low-income housing. The U.S. Census collects data for several categories of disability. These categories are defined below:

General disabilities:

- Sensory disability: Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- Physical disability: A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.

Disabilities lasting six months or more:

- Mental disability: Difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.
- Self-care disability: Difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.
- Going outside of home disability: Difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctors office.
- Employment disability: Difficulty working at a job or business.

As of 2000, there were 6,766 persons aged five and over in the City with a disability (See Table B.1). This is about 25 percent of the population (26,865). Of disabled residents, 10 percent have a sensory disability, 25 percent have a physical disability, 16 percent have a mental disability, 6 percent have a self-care disability, 15

Table B.1 City of Benicia:
Disability by Type, 2000

Total Population	26,865	Percent of Total Population
Total Disabilities	6,766	25%
Sensory	348	1%
Physical	1069	4%
Mental	859	3%
Self-Care	209	<1%
Go outside home	619	2%
Employment	1,915	7%
Total disabilities for ages 5-64	5,019	19%
Sensory	345	1%
Physical	597	2%
Mental	224	<1%
Self-Care	208	<1%
Go outside home	373	1%
Total Disabilities for Ages 65 and Over	1,747	6%

Source: U.S. Census

percent have a go-outside-home disability, and 28 percent have an employment disability.

Physically disabled persons generally require modifications to housing such as: wheelchair ramps, elevators or lifts, wide doorways, accessible cabinetry, modified fixtures and appliances, etc. If the disability prevents the person from operating a vehicle, then proximity to services and access to public transportation are also important. People with severe physical or mental disabilities may also require supportive housing, nursing facilities, or care facilities. If the physical disability prevents individuals from working or limits their income, then the ability to meet the cost of housing and the costs of modifications becomes more difficult. Many disabled people rely solely on Social Security Income, which is insufficient for market rate housing.

The State requires that those with disabilities receive opportunities for reasonable accommodation for housing opportunities. An analysis of housing constraints for residents with disabilities is included under the constraints discussion in Appendix E.

A growing number of architects and developers are integrating Universal Design principles into their projects to increase the accessibility of the built environment. The intent of Universal Design is to simplify design and construction by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible without the need for adaptation or specialized design. New construction could increase the opportunities in housing and employment for everyone by applying these principles, in addition to the regulations specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The following are the seven principles of universal design as outlined by the Center for Universal Design:

- **Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and Intuitive:** Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

- **Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended action.
- **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimum fatigue.
- **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Elderly

Senior households are included in those with special housing needs due to the likelihood of limited income, physical disabilities, or higher health care costs.

The special needs of seniors can be met through congregate care, rent subsidies, shared housing, and housing rehabilitation assistance. For the frail or disabled elderly, housing with architectural design features that accommodate disabilities can help extend the ability to live independently. In addition, seniors with mobility/self-care limitations benefit from transportation options.

As of the 2000 Census, there were 1,646 senior households in the City comprised of 1,306 owners and 340 renters (See Table B.2). In 2000 there were 546 elderly living below the poverty level. Below the poverty level is defined as 50 percent and below of area median income. This figure represents 2 percent of the total population and 33 percent of the total senior population.

Table B.2 City of Benicia: Tenure by Age of Householder, 2000

Householder Age	Owners	Renters	Total
65-74 years	712	165	877
75 plus years	594	175	769
Total	1,306	340	1,646

Source: U.S. Census

Table B.3 City of Benicia: Elderly Households by Income and Tenure, 2000

Income Level	Elderly Owner Households	Percent Elderly Owners	Elderly Renter Households	Percent Elderly Renters
Below 50% AMI	344	24.4%	202	55.3%
51% to 80%	210	14.9%	93	25.5%
Above 81%	855	60.7%	70	19.2%
Total	1,409	100%	365	100%

Note: Data from CHAS uses AMI, all other instances of this type of data in this document uses MFI.

Source: CHAS Databook

Large Households

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) identifies large households are those having five or more persons. The 2000 Census illustrates that there are 968 (9 percent of total households) large households (See Table B.4). Within this category, 68 households earn less than 50 percent of the area median income and are under the poverty level (See Table B.5).

Table B.4 City of Benicia: Tenure by Household Size, 2000

	1-4 Persons		5+ Persons	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Owner	6528	70%	772	80%
Renter	2829	30%	196	20%
Total	9357	100%	968	100%

Source: U.S. Census

Table B.5 City of Benicia: Household Size by Income, 2000

Income Level	1-4 persons		5+ persons	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Below 50% of AMI	977	14%	68	7%
51% to 80%	913	13%	92	10%
Above 81%	5,207	73%	784	83%
Total	7097	100%	944	100%

Note: Data from CHAS uses AMI, all other instances of this type of data in this document uses MFI.

Source: CHAS Databook

Of the 10,325 housing units within the City, 3,030 (29 percent) have 4 or more bedrooms (See Table B.6). However, while larger units are available within the City, affordability is likely still an issue for many families.

Table B.6 City of Benicia: Existing Housing Stock Number of Bedrooms by Tenure, 2000

Bedroom Type	Owner Households		Renter Households	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 Br	22	0%	198	7%
1 Br	125	2%	824	27%
2 Br	1,264	17%	1,330	44%
3 Br	3,029	41%	503	17%
4 Br	2,554	35%	164	5%
5+ Br	306	4%	6	<1%
Total	7300	100%	3025	100%

Source: U.S. Census

Female-Headed Households

Table B.7 identifies female-headed households, where no husband of the householder is present. Approximately 1,148 of the 10,552 total households (11 percent of total households) are female-headed households. Of this total, 136 households (12 percent of female-headed households) are under the poverty level.

Table B.7 City of Benicia: Female-Headed Households, 2000

Household Type	Number	Percent of Total Households
Female heads with children under 18	726	6%
Female heads without children under 18	422	4%
Total families under the poverty level	229	2%
Female-headed householders under the poverty level	136	1%
Total Female-headed households	1,148	11%
Total Households	10,325	100%

Source: US Census

Homeless

According to the Benicia Community Action Council (CAC), there are at least 55 homeless in the City. There are no shelters for homeless in the City. The closest facility is located in Vallejo. Studies are currently being conducted by the Community Action Partnership of Solano (CAP Solano) that will provide additional updated information about homelessness within the community. Program 3.01 in Chapter 4 requires that the City will amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow emergency shelters by right in the RS, RM, and RH zone districts.

Farmworkers

According to the Solano County Department of Agriculture, the County ranked 30th in the State for agricultural production in 2007. Total agricultural production totaled over \$268 million in 2007, a 13 percent increase from \$233 million in 2005.

Although the majority of the County is located within the State's primary agriculture region, Benicia is located within the urbanized bay area does not possess large areas of agricultural land. The closest agricultural region, Western Hills, is located 2 miles north of the City. As of the 2000 Census, only 42 residents in the City were working within the agricultural sector. Accordingly, farmworker housing needs are not an issue for Benicia.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Appendix C

Sites Inventory & Analysis

C.1 Land Inventory

State law emphasizes the importance of an adequate land supply by requiring each housing element to identify “...sites...to facilitate and encourage the development of a variety of types of housing for all income levels . . .” (Government Code Section 65583(c)(1)). To provide for new housing, enough land must be zoned to allow for the construction of a variety of housing at densities that will satisfy the objectives of the housing element. The land must also have access to appropriate public services, such as water, sewage treatment, storm drainage, and roads.

Vacant Land

The City’s land inventory was developed using the Solano County Geographic Information System (GIS) database with input from City Staff. As shown in Table C.1 on the following page, there are 76 vacant parcels on 27 acres suitable for residential development that have the capacity to accommodate approximately 226 homes (see also Figures C.1.A and C.1.B). The 80 percent buildout factor for vacant parcels is based on historical trends and the assumption that development standards combined with unique site features may not always lead to 100 percent buildout. There may also be political barriers to full development (See Appendix F for a full list of parcels by Assessor Parcel Number.)

However, even if 226 new homes were built, the City would not fully accommodate the remaining Regional Housing Needs Allocation of 431 housing units through 2014 (See Table C.3). The City also recognizes that the State requires land zoned at a minimum of 20 units per acre to meet the very low and low income housing allocation. There are about 2 acres in the TC zone that can accommodate about 33 units. However, the City has a remaining need of 246 units in these categories. In order to address the shortfall, the City proposes Programs 2.03 and 2.04 to identify and rezone land for 213 higher-density units (see Chapter 4). The City needs to identify approximately 11 acres to rezone to 20 units/acre to meet the shortfall. Under State law, half of this acreage needs to be zoned for residential use only. The City has developed two lists of sites that could potentially be rezoned to meet this State requirement. The lists can be found in Appendix I (Vacant Buildable sites) and Appendix J (Opportunity Sites). These lists are subsets of the list in Appendix F.

Constrained Land

Constrained sites in the City are vacant parcels that are currently zoned for very limited residential development or single family lots smaller than 6,000 square feet, the minimum lot size in the RS zone. There are 19 constrained parcels totalling about 4 acres (see Table C.2 and Appendix F). There are several programs proposed in Chapter 4

Table C.1 City of Benicia: Vacant Land Inventory

Zone	Acres	GP Designation	# of Parcels	Max Density Allowed	Max du/ac	80% Density Allowed	80% du/ac	Infrastructure
RS (Single Family Res)	17.33	Low Density Residential	65	7	121	5.6	97	Yes
RM (Medium Density Res)	0.13	Medium Density Residential	1	14	1	11.2	1	Yes
CO (Office Commercial)	8.51	Business and Professional Office	6	14	119	11.2	95	Yes
Subtotal	25.97		72		241		193	
TC (Town Core)	1.99	Downtown Mixed Use	4	21	41	16.8	33	Yes
Subtotal	1.99		4		41		33	
Total	27.96		76		284		226	

Source: Solano County GIS with input from the City of Benicia

Table C.2 City of Benicia: Constrained Land Inventory

Zone	Acres	GP Designation	# of Parcels	Max Density Allowed	Max du/ac	80% Density Allowed	80% du/ac	Infrastructure
RS (Single Family Res)	1.08	Low Density Residential	12	7	7	5.6	6	Yes
IL (Limited Industrial)	2.28	High Density Residential	1	21	47	16.8	38	Yes
NG-O (Neighborhood General Open)	0.11	Downtown Mixed Use	1	14	1	11.2	1	Yes
Subtotal	12.13		14		162		129	
CC (General Commercial)	1.49	General Commercial	5	21	31	16.8	25	Yes
Subtotal	1.49		5		31		25	
Total	4.41		19		76		61	

Source: Solano County GIS with input from the City of Benicia

Table C.3 City of Benicia: Remaining RHNA Analysis

	Very Low-Income	Low-Income	Moderate-Income	Above Moderate-Income	Total
Regional Housing Needs Allocation	147	99	108	178	532
Units Permitted Between January 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008	0	0	0	101	101
2007 - 2014 Remaining RHNA	147	99	108	77	431
Estimated Units Accommodated by Vacant Land	10	23	96	97	226
Remaining Units to be Accommodated by Rezoning (only very low- and low-income units)	137	76	12 ¹	0	213
Note:					
1. It is assumed these units will be addressed by the market					

Source: City of Benicia 2009; ABAG 2008

to remove constraints to residential development on these sites.

Opportunity Sites

Opportunity sites that are already developed or that are underutilized and have been identified as having potential to be redesigned for neighborhood revitalization or redevelopment (see Appendix F). These sites comprise approximately 27 acres and include Solano Square, Southampton Center, the Senior Center, and a parcel at 1115 West 5th Street. Sites such as Solano Square because of its location, access to regional transit, and proximity to downtown, could be redesigned or redeveloped with a mix of uses, including housing above retail or commercial spaces. Program 2.04 encourages revitalization of select underutilized sites. The City has identified certain opportunity sites with potential for rezoning and redevelopment (See Appendix J).

Another opportunity site is Capitol Heights, which is a 75-unit complex owned and managed by the Housing Authority. The public housing consists of one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom units built in 1953 and completely remodeled in the 1990s. Six of the units were remodeled with accessibility features. The site is almost nine acres. At the current build out, the units per acre is about 8.3. All or a portion of the site could be redeveloped at a higher density to use this land more efficiently.

C.2 Infrastructure Capacity

The proximity, availability, and capacity of infrastructure helps to determine the suitability of water and sewer capacity available to accommodate the housing needs during the planning period. The current infrastructure capacity is sufficient to accommodate the 2007-2014 RHNA.

Wastewater Treatment

The City's sewer plant, located along the Carqinez Strait, has a design capacity of 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd).

Water System

The City's drinking water supply originates from three sources: the State Water Project via the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) (primary source), the Solano Water Project via the Putah South Canal (PSC) (alternate source), and Lake Herman (emergency source). The average flow of water treated at the Benicia Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in 2008 was 6.6 mgd with a peak of 10.5 mgd in July. The Benicia WTP has a hydraulic capacity of 12 mgd.

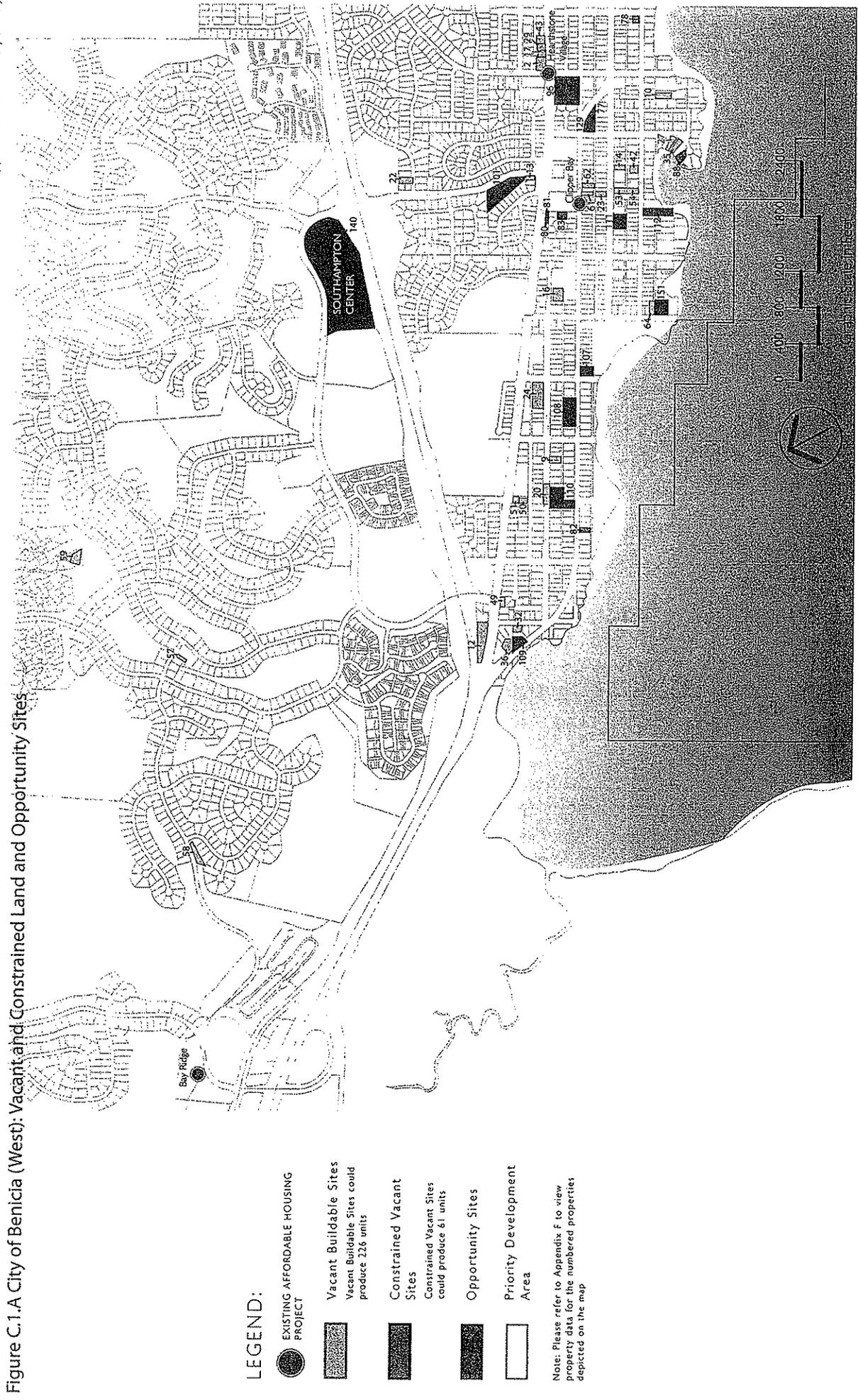
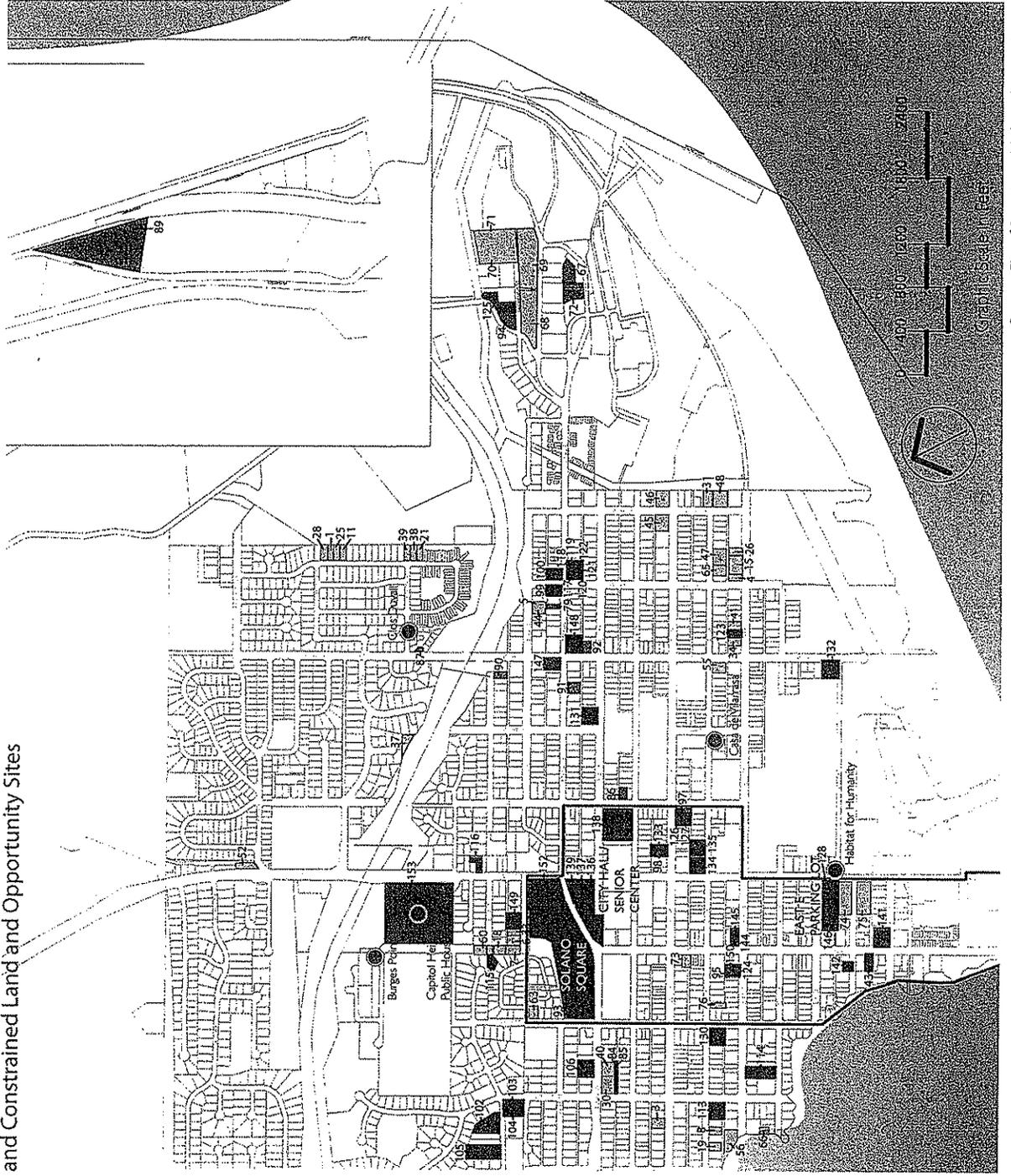


Figure C.1.A City of Benicia (West): Vacant and Constrained Land and Opportunity Sites

Figure C.1.B City of Benicia (East): Vacant and Constrained Land and Opportunity Sites



LEGEND:

-  EXISTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT
-  Vacant Buildable Sites
Vacant Buildable Sites could produce 226 units
-  Constrained Vacant Sites
Constrained Vacant Sites could produce 61 units
-  Opportunity Sites
-  Priority Development Area

Note: Please refer to Appendix F to view property data for the numbered properties depicted on the map

Appendix D

Housing Resources

D.1 Housing Assistance

The City of Benicia offers a housing rehabilitation program. The City of Benicia does not have a Redevelopment Agency, and therefore, does not have a housing set-aside balance to fund housing related programs and activities. A proposal was put forward by the City Manager's Office in the mid-1980s, which was initially supported by the City Council, to form such an agency in Benicia. The motivation behind the formation of the agency was to create a financing mechanism to purchase and fund properties within the downtown and industrial park improvement project areas. Initially it appeared there was adequate community interest to support such a measure; however, as time went on a citizen's group against the creation of a redevelopment agency initiated a ballot measure (1988) to prohibit the formation of the agency. The City Council at the time concluded that it was not judicious to proceed with formation of the agency in light of such strong public opposition. The idea was dropped and no Council since has initiated the concept again.

The Benicia Housing Authority administers housing choice vouchers and public housing including senior housing.

Funding for these programs is provided through: CDBG revolving loan fund monies, Section 8 vouchers, and U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) subsidies. The Benicia Housing Authority also has a Security Deposit Loan Program where persons moving into a housing unit can obtain a loan for up to \$1,000, with no interest, to be paid back within 18 months, that covers a portion of the initial cost of the security deposit.

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program

Benicia's Housing Rehabilitation Program is administered through by Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Services. This program is funded through a revolving loan fund that receives monies from CDBG grants. Eligible applicants include:

- Low-and very low-income homeowners (income eligibility is based on the annual Solano County median income for a family of four), and
- Landlords who will rent to low- and very low-income tenants for a period of not less than five years.

Loans are given for a period of 20 years. The amount of the loan is based on the value of the house. Interest payments are deferred for lower income or disabled homeowners, while landlords pay four percent interest.

Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Housing Authority operates the Housing Choice Voucher Program in Benicia with financial assistance from HUD. The program provides

subsidies to low-, very low-, and extremely low-income tenants renting privately-owned dwellings. Currently, this program has authorized funding to assist 372 families. The Housing Authority has applied for 25 more vouchers. Assisted tenants generally pay 30 percent of their income towards the total cost of rent and utilities and the voucher covers the difference between the tenant contribution and the total cost of rent and utilities. The Housing Authority inspects the units annually to ensure that the assisted tenants are living in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings.

The market rent plus average utility costs for the dwelling must be less than the Voucher Payment Standard Schedule (VPS) for the number of bedrooms in the dwelling (see below for a discussion of Voucher Payment Standards). In some cases the tenant family may rent a dwelling unit that costs more than the VPS schedule, but in that case they must pay the overage which cannot increase their contribution above 40 percent of their income. Participation in the program is voluntary on the part of tenants and landlords. The Housing Authority provides preference in admission to the program to veterans, persons with disabilities, families with a head of household or spouse who works or attends school or a training program, victims of federally declared disasters, and persons who already live or work in Benicia. There are approximately 500 families signed up on a four-year waitlist to receive vouchers in Benicia.

Section 8 Home Ownership Program

The Benicia Housing Authority utilizes some of its HUD funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program to also assist low-income first-time home buyers in Benicia. The Authority subsidizes the costs of home ownership expenses in the same fashion that it subsidizes rental costs. The purchasing family must work or be disabled, meet income standards, and complete a home buyer training course before purchasing a home. They are expected to contribute at least 30 percent of their adjusted income towards home ownership expenses. The Housing Authority then pays the difference between those expenses, up to the applicable Voucher Payment Standard amount and the home buyer's contribution. Buyers find

their own homes and their own financing, but the Authority must approve both for the family to qualify for Section 8 assistance. Home buyer expenses that are eligible for assistance include mortgage principle and interest, property taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance and replacement reserve allowances, and condominium home owner association dues, if applicable. According to the Housing Authority, this program has helped at least 12 low-income families purchase a home in the City thus far. Due to the cost of housing in Benicia, the purchase of a single-family home is difficult with the help of Section 8 homeownership vouchers, unless it is tied to a specific affordable project.

Public Housing Program

The Benicia Housing Authority owns or manages the following affordable housing developments:

Capitol Heights Public Housing

Location: Riverhill Drive and Bayview Circle

Units: 75

Constructed: 1954

Casa de Vilarrasa I Senior Housing

Location: 383 East I Street

Units: 40

Constructed: 1984

Casa de Vilarrasa II Senior Housing

Location: 921 East 4th Street

Units: 40

Constructed: 1986

Bay Ridge Apartments

Location: Rose Drive at Cambridge Drive

Units: 50

Constructed: 2003

Burgess Point Apartments

Location: 91 Riverview Terrace

Units: 56

Constructed: 2003

The 75-unit Capitol Heights development consists of one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom units built in 1953 and completely remodeled in the 1990s. Six of the units were remodeled with

accessibility features. Admission is limited to families with gross family incomes of 80 percent or less of Solano County's median income. Rent is limited to 30 percent of family income, and the Authority receives federal subsidies to make up the difference between its rent roll and the total costs of operating and maintaining the project. The same preferences listed above for admission to the Housing Voucher program also extend to the public housing program. The Capitol Heights units are very popular and vacancies are limited.

The Housing Authority manages the 54-unit Bay Ridge Apartments and the 56-units at Burgess Point Apartments both built in 2003. The Bay Ridge development was not funded by the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, however, four of the units were mitigation for the Harbor Walk project, which was subject to the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. Fifty of the Bay Ridge units were mitigation for the Tourtelot development. The Tourtelot project pre-dated the inclusionary ordinance, but the developer agreed to construct affordable units as part of their agreement with the City.

Senior Housing

The Benicia Housing Authority manages under a master lease 80 units of senior housing in the Casa de Vilarrasa development. All the Casa de Vilarrasa units have one-bedroom apartments and tenants have access to spacious lobby areas and a community room. The State of California subsidizes 52 of the 80 units through the Rental Housing Construction Program. Casa de Vilarrasa was built in two phases in 1984 and 1986 and about half of the State's required 30-year affordability period remains in effect. Tenants in the State subsidized units typically pay 25 percent of their income towards the total cost of rent and utilities. Market rate units are also available to seniors at Casa de Vilarrasa.

D.2 Voucher Payment Standards

In order to control the costs of the Housing Choice Voucher program, the federal government

sets limits on the amount of subsidy that may be provided to any participating family. The chief mechanism for controlling costs is the rule regarding establishment of Voucher Payment Standards. Each year, on or about October 1, HUD publishes Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for every Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and Non-metropolitan county in the United States. The FMRs for any housing market area are HUD's determination of the 40th percentile rent (or 50th percentile rent in certain high-cost areas) for standard quality rental units occupied by recent movers in that market area by bedroom size. The purpose of HUD publishing FMRs is to ensure that a reasonable number of rental units are available for rent to tenants participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program while limiting program costs to the cost of renting modestly priced housing units.

D.3 Availability of Financing

Many State of California programs exist to provide cities, communities, and counties financial assistance in the development, preservation, and rehabilitation of units for workforce housing. The Department of Housing and Community Development identifies and provides detailed information on the grants and loans available for affordable and workforce housing, which include:

Affordable Housing Innovation Program: This program provides grants or loans to fund the development or preservation of workforce housing.

Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods Program: Provides grants and loans to first-time low and moderate-income buyers.
www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/begin

CalHome Program: Provides grants and loans to very-low income homeowners.
www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/calhome

Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Capital Development: Provides deferred payment loans for capital development activities for:

emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/ehap/ehapcd.html

Emergency Housing and Assistance Program

Operating Facility Grants: Provides grants for: emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive services for homeless individuals and families.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/ehap/

Enterprise Zone Program: Provides incentives such as sales tax credits and operation deductions for business investment.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/ez/#EZ

Federal Emergency Shelter Grant Program:

Provides grants to fund emergency shelters and transitional housing for the homeless.

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/esg/

Governor's Homeless Initiative: Provides loans for the development of supportive housing for homeless residents who suffer from severe mental illness.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/ghi

HOME Investment Partnerships Program: Provides cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations with grants and low-interest loans to develop and preserve workforce housing.

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/

Housing Assistance Program: Provides grants to assist housing payments for extremely-low to very-low-income housing.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/hap

Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant

Program: Provides grants and loans to finance the construction, repair, and purchase of rental units for farmworker housing.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/fwhg

Multifamily Housing Program: Provide deferred payment loans to fund the construction, repair,

and purchase of permanent and rental units for supportive housing. This includes housing for low-income residents with disabilities, or those who are at risk of homelessness.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/mhp

Office of Migrant Services: Provides grants to assist in seasonal rental housing and support for migrant farmworker families.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/oms

Predevelopment Loan Program: Provides short-term loans for financing low-income housing projects.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/pdlp

State CDBG Program Economic Development Allocation, Over the Counter Component: Provides grants to create or sustain jobs for rural low-income workers.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/econdev.html

State CDBG Program General, Native American, and Colonias Allocations: Provides grants to fund housing, capital improvement, and community projects that benefit lower-income residents in rural communities.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/gennatamcol.html

Workforce Housing Reward Program: Provides grants to cities and counties that approve permits for new workforce housing going to very-low to low-income households.

www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/whrp

Appendix E

Constraints

State housing law requires the City to review both governmental and non-governmental constraints to the construction of affordable housing in order to remove and/or mitigate potentially negative effects. This Section analyzes constraints to housing production and, where necessary, provides recommendations to remove or minimize their impacts.

E.1 Local Government Constraints

Local policies and regulations can affect the quantity and type of residential development. Since governmental actions can constrain the development and the affordability of housing, State law requires the housing element to “address and, where appropriate and legally possible, remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing” (Government Code § 65583(c)(3)).

The City’s primary policies and regulations that affect residential development and housing affordability include: the Zoning Ordinance, the General Plan, the Arsenal Historic Conservation Plan, the Downtown Historic Conservation Plan, the Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan, development processing procedures and fees, on and off-site improvement requirements, and building codes. In addition to a review of these policies

and regulations, an analysis of governmental constraints on housing production for persons with disabilities is included in this section.

E.1.1 Zoning Ordinance

The Zoning Ordinance includes three residential zoning districts, four commercial districts, one industrial district, one open space district, and four form-based districts that allow residential development. The maximum residential density allowed is 21 units per acre.

These districts are addressed below, followed by specific development regulations for accessory dwelling units and emergency shelter.

The 2007 Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan includes form-based development standards within the downtown to support pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development.

a) Single-Family Residential (RS) District

The RS district makes up 75 percent of all residential zone districts. Duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes existing as of July 1, 1977, are allowed to remain, but all new residential development must be single-family dwellings or approved accessory structures. Second units, referred to as accessory dwelling units, are permitted by right in the RS district, subject to specific development standards identified in Section 17.70.060.D (see Table E.5). The maximum allowable density is 7

units per acre. The RS district is consistent with and implements the Residential, Low Density land use designation of the General Plan.

b) Medium-Density Residential (RM) District The RM district makes up 16 percent of all residential zoning districts. Housing types include duplexes, new townhouses, and clustered housing. Second units (accessory dwelling units) are permitted by right in the RM district, subject to specific development standards identified in Section 17.70.060.D (see Table E.5). The maximum allowable density is 14 units per acre. The RM zoning district is consistent with and implements the Residential, Medium Density land use designation of the General Plan.

c) High-Density Residential (RH) District The RH district makes up just 9 percent of all residential zoning districts. Housing types include apartments and townhouses. Second units (accessory dwelling units) are permitted by right in the RH district, subject to specific development standards identified in Section 17.70.060.D (see Table E.5). The maximum allowable density is 21 units per acre. The RH zoning district is consistent with and implements the High Density Residential land use designation of the General Plan.

d) Community Commercial (CC) District The CC district is applied to areas appropriate for businesses serving the daily needs of nearby residential areas. The zone establishes development standards that prevent adverse effects on residential uses adjoining the CC district. In addition to commercial uses, live/work quarters and second story single- and multi-family residential are permitted in the CC district. General Day Care and Residential Care are allowed with a use permit. The CC district implements the Community Commercial land use designation of the General Plan.

e) Commercial Office (CO) District The CO district allows/includes offices of residential scale and residential development that is protected from the more intense levels of activity associated with retail commercial development. Second story single- and multi-family residential

are permitted in the CO district. General day care and general residential care are allowed with a use permit. The CO district implements the Business and Professional Office land use designation of the General Plan.

f) General Commercial (CG) District The CG district is applied to areas appropriate for the full range of retail and service businesses, including businesses not permitted in other commercial districts because they attract heavy vehicular traffic or have certain adverse impacts. In addition to commercial uses, live/work quarters are permitted in the CG district. Group residential is allowed with a use permit. The CG district is consistent with and implements the General Commercial land use designation of the General Plan.

g) Waterfront Commercial (CW) District The CW district is applied to areas appropriate for waterfront-related development around the Benicia marina and along the shoreline. In addition to commercial uses, live/work quarters and multi-family residential are permitted in the CW district. Residential care, limited is also permitted by right in this district. The CW district is consistent with and implements the Waterfront Commercial land use designation of the General Plan.

h) Limited Industrial (IL) District The IL district is applied to areas appropriate for business and commercial services and light manufacturing. In addition live/work quarters are allowed with a use permit in the IL district. General day care is allowed with a use permit. The IL district implements the limited industrial land use designation of the General Plan.

i) Open Space (OS) District The OS district is applied to areas appropriate for large public or private sites. In addition to open space uses, single-family residential is permitted in the OS district inside the urban growth boundary. Residential is limited to one dwelling unit and one accessory dwelling unit per parcel. The OS district implements the Open Space land use designation of the General Plan.

j) Form-Based Zones/Downtown

Land use regulations and development standards for the downtown are regulated by the Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan. The Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan sets forth five form-based zoning districts that are designed to ensure that mixed-use development is compatible with and contributes to the character of the street, the downtown, and adjoining neighborhoods (see Table E.2 for Districts). These zones implement the Mixed Use Downtown land use designation of the General Plan.

Residential development is allowed in four zoning districts in the Downtown. In the Town Core (TC) and the Town Core Open (TC-O) residential is allowed on the upper floors. In the Neighborhood General (NG) and Neighborhood General Open (NG-O) residential is allowed on both the ground and upper floors. Additionally, in the Neighborhood General (NG) accessory buildings can accommodate residential uses are allowed.

Table E.1 displays the types of permits necessary for residential uses in the City of Benicia.

Table E.1: Zoning Districts Permitting Residential Uses

Residential Uses	Zoning District									
	RS	RM	RH	CC	CO	CG	CW	IL	OS	
Single Family	P	P	P	P ¹	P ¹	—	P ¹	—	P	
Multifamily	—	P	P	P ¹	P ¹	—	P ¹	—	—	
Group Residential Live/Work Unit	—	UP	UP	—	—	UP	—	—	—	
Day Care, General (9 or more children)	—	—	—	P	—	P	P	UP	—	
Day Care, Limited (8 or fewer children)	UP	UP	UP	UP ²	UP ²	—	UP ²	UP	—	
Residential Care, General (7 or more clients)	P	P	P	—	—	—	P	—	—	
Residential Care, Limited (6 or fewer clients)	—	UP	UP	UP	UP	—	—	—	—	
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P	P	P	—	—	—	P	—	—	
Mobile Homes and Manufactured Housing	P	P	P	—	—	—	—	—	P	
Emergency Shelter	—	P	P	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Transitional Housing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Notes:

P: Permitted

UP: Use Permit Required

—: Not allowed

1. Not permitted on ground level.
2. Planning Commission use permit required, except that the community development director may approve use permits for large family day care homes caring for 7 to 12 children, as defined in Chapter 3.4 of the California Health and Safety Code.
3. Permitted only if there is a single-family dwelling on the lot and site meets standards from Section 17.70.060.D
4. Not permitted on lands outside urban growth boundary. On lands inside the urban growth boundary, limited to one primary dwelling unit and one accessory dwelling unit per site.
5. Emergency shelters and transitional housing are not specifically identified as permitted in any particular zone, however Subsection 17.08.020.M of Zoning Ordinance states: In the administration of its zoning and land use policies regarding homeless shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing or other housing designed to assist homeless persons or persons with special needs, the City shall comply with all applicable state and federal fair housing laws.

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance (last updated 2008)

Table E.2: Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan Zoning Districts
Permitting Residential Uses

Residential Uses	Formed-Based Code Zoning District			
	TC	TC-O	NG	NG-O
Live/Work Unit	—	P	P	P
Mixed-use project residential component:	P ¹	P ¹	P	P
Dwelling: Single-family	—	—	P	P
Dwelling: Multi-family Rowhouse	P ²	P ²	—	—
Dwelling: Multi-family Duplex	P ²	P ²	P	P
Dwelling: Multi-family Triplex	P ²	P ²	—	—
Dwelling: Multi-family Fourplex	P ²	P	—	—
Ancillary Building	P	P	P	P
Residential Care, 7 or more clients	P ²	UP	—	UP
Residential Care, 6 or fewer clients	P ²	MUP	—	MUP
Day care center: Child or Adult	P ²	MUP	MUP	MUP
Day care center: Large Family (7 to 14 children)	P ²	UP	UP	UP
Day care center: Small Family (8 or fewer children)	P ²	P	P	P
Mobile Homes and Manufactured Housing	—	—	—	—
Emergency Shelter ³	—	—	—	—
Transitional Housing ³	—	—	—	—

Notes:

P: Permitted

MUP: Minor Use Permit Required - staff review only

UP: Use Permit Required

—: Use not allowed

1. Allowed on upper floors only

2. Allowed only on upper floors or behind ground floor use (except along the waterfront).

3. Not specifically identified as permitted in any particular zone, however Subsection 17.08.020.M of Zoning Ordinance states: In the administration of its zoning and land use policies regarding homeless shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing or other housing designed to assist homeless persons or persons with special needs, the City shall comply with all applicable state and federal fair housing laws.

Source: City of Benicia Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan, 2007

Development Standards

Table E.3 provides development standards for the residential districts. Table E.4 provides development standards for the form-based code districts. The development standards generally do not impede the City’s ability to achieve maximum allowable densities. However, the City has proposed Program 1.09 to reduce lot size in the RS district.

Table E.3: Residential Zoning District Development Standards

	Zoning District		
	RS	RM	RH
Site Area per Unit	6,000 sf	3,000 sf	2,000 sf
With density bonus for:			
Low- or Moderate Income Housing	4,800 sf	2,400 sf	1,600 sf
Elderly Housing	—	2,000 sf	1,300 sf
Low Income Elderly Housing	—		
Minimum Site Area	6,000 sf ¹	6,000 sf ¹	7,500 sf ¹
Minimum Site Width	60 ft.	60 ft.	60 ft.
Setbacks			
Front	20 ft.	20 ft.	20 ft.
Side	5 ft.	6 ft.; 10 ft. (avg.)	6 ft.; 10 ft. (avg.)
Corner Side	10 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.
Rear	15 ft.	15 ft.	15 ft.
Maximum Height	30 ft.	35 ft.	35 ft.
Maximum Coverage	40%	45%	50%
Parking Required	SF - 2 spaces including 1 covered/unit MF Studios - 1.2 spaces/unit MF 1-2 bedroom - 1.5 spaces/unit MF 3 or more bedrooms - 2.0 spaces/unit		
Permitted Uses	SF	SF/MF	SF/MF

Notes:

SF = Single-family dwelling

MF = Multifamily dwelling

1. Uses requiring a use permit have a minimum of 12,000 sf

Notes from Zoning Ordinance:

(H) In the RM and RH districts, the average yard width shall be 10 feet, and the minimum width six feet.

(R) Reduction of Lot Width. In an RS district, the community development director may approve a tentative parcel map containing up to four lots, and the planning commission may approve a tentative subdivision with five or more lots, with lot widths of less than 60 feet, but not less than 50 feet, if the following criteria are met:

- (1) The applicant shall provide documented evidence to the planning commission or community development director that property within 300 feet of the original parcel is developed or subdivided; and

- (2) The applicant shall provide documented evidence of the existing lot width of properties within 300 feet of the original parcel. Minimum lot width of new parcels shall be the average of all lot widths within the 300 feet comparison area, or at least 50 feet wide, whichever is greater; and
- (3) The applicant must show that the land falls naturally into a pattern of lots containing less than 60-foot lot widths; and
- (4) Flag lots shall comply with subsection (S) of this section, Flag Lots; and
- (5) The reduction of lot width will not be detrimental to the public welfare nor injurious to other property in the vicinity; and
- (6) The planning commission or community development director must be satisfied that the applicant has not sold or transferred land, or taken any other steps to create the artificial result that the lot or lots will not meet the 60-foot lot width requirement.

The planning commission or community development director may attach additional requirements to the subdivision to ensure that the reduction in lot width is not injurious to property or detrimental to the public welfare, such as by providing for adequate distance between buildings and between driveways. The criteria above shall be incorporated into the findings of approval for any such subdivision.

(S) Flag Logs. A tentative parcel map with four or fewer lots that contains up to two flag lots in the RS district may be approved, if the following criteria are met:

- (1) Parcel map and flag lot configuration shall require planning commission review and approval;
- (2) The original parcel's shape, location or topography creates areas that could be developed with a residence that would not front on public streets;
- (3) The portion of the lot providing the access corridor shall not be counted towards meeting minimum lot size requirements for the flag lot;
- (4) Flag lot shall have a minimum street frontage of 25 feet;
- (5) Driveway accessing flag lot shall be paved with a minimum 16-foot width to access one lot;
- (6) Up to two lots may be accessed via one access driveway, provided the street frontage is increased to 30 feet and the paved driveway is increased to 19 feet;
- (7) Width of lot shall measure at least 60 feet where the access corridor ends;
- (8) Side and rear yard setbacks for flag lot and adjoining lots shall be measured from the access corridor;
- (9) Front yard setback for flag lots shall be measured from where the access corridor ends;
- (10) The community development director shall be satisfied the applicant has not sold or transferred land, or taken any other steps to create the artificial result that the original parcel is shaped irregularly; and
- (11) Further subdivision of flag lots shall not be allowed.

The planning commission may attach additional requirements to the parcel map to ensure that the creation of a flag lot is not injurious to property or detrimental to the public welfare. The criteria above shall be incorporated into the findings of approval for any such subdivision.

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance (last updated 2008)

Table E.4: Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan Area Development Standards

	Zoning District			
	TC	TC-O	NG	NG-O
Build To Line (BTL) (Distance from Property Line)				
Front	0 ft.	0 ft.	20 ft. ¹	
Side Street	0 ft.	—	10 ft.	
Rear Accessory Building	—	—	5 ft.	
Setbacks				
Side	0 ft.	3 ft.	4 ft. one side & 8 ft. other	
Rear	8 ft. Adjacent to NG Zone 5 ft. Adjacent to any other Zone		40 ft. Main Building ²	35 ft. Main Building ²
Building Form				
Primary Street Facade to BTL	80% min	80% min	50% min	
Side Street Facade to BTL	30% min	N/A	30% min	
Maximum Lot Width	125 ft.	75 ft.	50 ft.	
Maximum Lot Depth	100 ft.	150 ft.	150 ft.	
Height				
Maximum Height	40 ft. (2.5 stories)	25 ft. (2.5 stories)	30 ft. (2.5 stories)	
Minimum Height	22 ft.	16 ft.	—	
Parking Required (residential uses)	1 space/unit .5 space/studio unit		.5 space/studio unit 1-2 bedroom unit 1 space/unit 3+ bedroom unit 1 space plus .5 space/bedroom over 2	

1. May be reduced to meet furthest back adjacent Build to Line if adjacent Build to Line if adjacent Build Line is less than 20 feet from property line.
2. Setback shall be measured from 120 feet from front property line if no alley adjoins the property.

Source: City of Benicia Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan, 2007

Accessory Dwelling Units/Second Units

To encourage establishment of second units on existing developed lots, State law requires cities and counties to either adopt an ordinance based on standards set out in the law authorizing creation of second units in residentially-zoned areas, or where no ordinance has been adopted, to allow second units if they meet standards set out in the State law. The State requires ministerial consideration of second-unit applications. Local governments are precluded from prohibiting second units in residentially zoned areas unless they make specific findings.

Second units can be an important source of affordable housing since they are typically smaller in scale than primary units and they do not have direct land costs. Second units can also provide supplemental income to the homeowner, thus allowing the elderly to remain in their homes or moderate-income families to afford houses.

The City adopted Section 17.70.060 (Accessory dwelling units) which permits accessory dwellings through an administrative process. According to the Zoning Ordinance, one accessory dwelling unit per parcel is permitted by right in all residential districts (RS, RM, and RH) on lots with a single-family dwelling, subject to specific design and development standards.

Table E.5 sets out the design and development standards for accessory dwelling units in the City of Benicia. Table E.6 provides these standards for areas within the Downtown Mixed Used Master Plan Area. These standards do not conflict with State law governing second units. The City has received input that current fees, the minimum parcel size required for a second unit, and other standards are a constraint to developing second units in the City. Program 1.09 is intended to address these constraints.

Emergency Shelters, Transitional, and Supportive Housing

In compliance with Chapter 633 of Statutes 2007 (SB 2), jurisdictions are required to permit emergency shelters without discretionary permits, and transitional and supportive housing are to be

considered residential uses subject only to those restrictions that apply to other residential dwellings of the same type in the same zone. The City of Benicia does not specifically zone for emergency shelters, transitional housing, or supportive housing. Benicia Municipal Code Section 17.08.020.M states:

In the administration of its zoning and land use policies regarding homeless shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing or other housing designed to assist homeless persons or persons with special needs, the City shall comply with all applicable state and federal fair housing laws.

The purpose of Program 3.01 is to comply with SB 2, the "Fair Share Zoning" law by 2010.

Table E.5: Accessory Dwelling Unit Standards

Standard	Second Unit
Permit	Permitted by right in residential districts
Lot size	Minimum 6,000 sf
Lot coverage	Same as primary unit requirements
Unit size	< or equal to 800 sf
Max Height	12 ft. wall (15 ft. for a pitched roof) No second story, other than unfinished storage area
Rental of unit	May be rented, although not required
Setbacks	Units not permitted in a required yard or court except if a rear yard is adjacent to an alley and a 4 ft. setback for a vehicle entrance to a covered parking structure is maintained. A 6 ft. distance from any existing dwelling shall be maintained. A 10 ft. distance shall be maintained in the DMUMP area.
Parking	A minimum of three off-street parking spaces shall be required for a lot containing an accessory dwelling. One parking space, which is not required to be covered, shall serve the accessory unit. The accessory dwelling unit parking space shall not be placed within the required front yard setback unless, at the discretion of the Community Development Director or designee, there is no other reasonable place for the additional parking space to be located and appropriate landscaping is provided.

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance (last updated 2008)

Table E.6: Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan Area Accessory Dwelling Unit Standards

	Zoning District			
	TC	TC-O	NG	NG-O
Building Depth	na	na	28' max.	
Building Footprint	na	na	700 sf. max	1000 sf. max
Maximum Height	2 stories & 25'		1.5 stories & 15'	

Source: City of Benicia Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan, 2007

E.1.2 General Plan

The City of Benicia General Plan was adopted in 1999. The Community Development and Sustainability Chapter of the 1999 General Plan designates the following land use categories: residential, commercial, mixed use, industrial, parks/open space, and public/quasi-public. The General Plan designates land for residential use in three residential categories, two mixed-use categories, and five commercial categories.

Table E.7 lists the 1999 General Plan Land Use Designations that allow residential uses. The residential densities described in the Table are in dwelling units per net acre. A net acre is the actual area of a given property, exclusive of street rights-of-way.

The 1999 General Plan identifies the City's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for the purpose of growth control. The UGB is an officially adopted and mapped line that separates the City's urban area from its surrounding greenbelt of open lands. The implementation of the UGB does not constrain residential development, but rather it directs residential growth to already urbanized areas. This

growth management tool helps to promote more compact, contiguous urban development.

E.1.3 Development Processing Procedures and Fees

Government policies and ordinances regulating development affect the availability and cost of new housing. Although land use controls have the greatest direct impact, development approval procedures and fees can affect housing costs as well.

Permit and Development Fees

The City collects fees to help cover the costs of permit processing, inspections, and environmental review. Fees charged for building permits are based on the construction values prescribed by the California Building Code. The City also collects development impact fees in accordance with California Government Code § 66000-66025 for the provision of services such as roads, signals, parks, sewer, water and storm drains. These fees are generally assessed on the number of units in a residential development and collected at the beginning of the approval process. Fees collected

Table E.7: Existing General Plan Land Use Designations and Corresponding Zoning Districts

Land Use Designation	Corresponding Zoning District	Density Range (units/net acre)/ Floor to Area Ratio (FAR)	Percent of Land Area in City
Residential			
Low Density	RS	0.1-7	23% (1,301 acres)
Medium Density	RM	8-14	5% (283 acres)
High Density	RH	15-21	3% (149 acres)
Mixed Use			
Downtown	TC, TC-O, NG, NG-O	2.0	1.7% (88 acres)
Lower Arsenal	PD, GD, IG	2.0	1% (50 acres)
Commercial			
Community	CC	1.2	0.08% (4.3 acres)
Waterfront	CW	0.8 - 1.2	0.39% (22 acres)
Business and Professional Office	CO	0.8 - 1.2	0.28% (16 acres)
General	CG	1.2	2.71% (153 acres)
Downtown	TC, TC-O, NG, NG-O	2.0 - 2.4	0.42% (24 acres)

Source: City of Benicia General Plan Land Use Element, 1999

by the City do not exceed the City's costs for providing these services.

Tables E.8 and E.9 show several examples of current planning and building permit fees for residential development.

Table E.8: Planning and Development Fees

Fee Category	Fee Amount	
Planning Fees		
Planned Development	\$3,025 ¹	
Use Permit - Commission (Residential projects up to 6 units)	\$1,800	
Use Permit - Commission (Residential projects 7-20 units)	\$2,275	
Use Permit - Commission (Residential projects 21+ units)	\$2,730	
Use Permit - Staff	\$1,275	
Variance	\$1,500 - \$1,750	
Design Review	\$350 - \$1,750	
Accessory Dwelling Unit - Administrative Permit	\$175	
Building Permit Review	\$50	
Environmental Review		
Exemption from GEOA (filed)	\$250	
Initial Study	\$1,300	
Negative Declaration	\$600	
State Fish & Game Dept Fee - EIR	\$2,768	
Subdivision Applications		
Parcel Map - Minor Subdivision	\$2,375	
Tentative Map	\$3,250 ³	
Lot Line Adjustment	\$500	
Parcel Merger	\$350	
Impact Fees		
	Single Family	Multifamily
Traffic	\$1,029/du	\$550 - \$591/du
Park Dedication Fee	\$5,700/du	\$3,806 - \$4,950/du
Capital License Fee	\$949	\$475
Sewer Connection	\$7,500/du	
Water Connection	\$7,635/du	
School Impact Fee	\$2.63/sf	
Salerno County Public Facilities Fee	\$3,549	\$3,357
Library Book Fee	\$219/du	
Note:		
1. Fee increases with project size		
2. Additional Meters (irrigation; etc.) have additional fee		
3. Fee increases by number of units/lots		
Source: City of Benicia Master Fee Schedule, 2008		

Table E.9: Proportion of Fee in Overall Development Cost for a Typical Residential Development

Development Cost for a Typical Unit	
Total estimated fees per unit	\$30,576
Typical estimated cost of development per unit	\$400,000
Estimated proportion of fee cost to overall development cost per unit	7.6 percent

Source: City of Benicia, 2008

Planning Permit Procedures

Procedures for processing permits differ based on the permits involved. The following procedures are common to the City's permitting process:

1. Pre-application meeting with City staff
2. Filing of application and fees
3. Initial application review – completeness check (30-day review; Government Code 65943)
4. Environmental Review (20 days to 1 year)
5. Staff Report and recommendation
6. Permit approval or disapproval

Table E.10 displays the typical timelines for approvals and permits. These timelines are in keeping with other jurisdictions in the Bay Area.

Table E.10: Timelines for Permit Procedures

Application Type	Estimated Approval Time Period
Existing Single-family dwelling unit in Historic District	6 - 8 weeks (Historic Preservation Review Commission)
Multifamily Project	6 - 8 weeks (Historic Preservation Review Commission)
Variances	6 - 8 weeks (Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission)
Residential Design Review (Single- and Multifamily projects)	4 - 6 weeks (Single-family staff review)
Projects with Environmental Review	6 - 8 weeks (Historic Preservation Review Commission)
Rezone	8 - 14 weeks Negative Declaration (Planning Commission)
General Plan Amendment	12 - 18 weeks (Planning Commission/City Council)
Lot Line Adjustment	12 weeks Negative Declaration or exempt (Planning Commission/City Council)
Parcel Map	3 weeks (staff review)
Subdivision Map (Project)	6 weeks (staff review)
Conditional Use Permit	12 weeks (Planning Commission)
Temporary Use Permit	6 - 8 weeks (Planning Commission)
	3 weeks (staff review)

Notes:

1. Rezoning run concurrently with a General Plan amendment.

Source: City of Benicia, 2008

Table E.11 lists the review authority for various applications in the City of Benicia. Use Permits are reviewed by the Planning Commission, which notices and holds a public hearing to decide on approval. Conditions of approval may be imposed on the permit for approval.

Table E.11: Review Authority

Type of Decision	Role of Review Authority ¹			
	Director, or Zoning Administrator	Historic Preservation Review Commission	Planning Commission	City Council
Zoning Permit	Decision	—	—	Appeal
Use Permit	Recommend	—	Decision	Appeal
Variance	Recommend ²	—	Decision	Appeal
Design Review in I Districts	Decision	—	Appeal	Appeal
Design Review in H Districts ³	Recommend	Decision	Appeal	Appeal
Development Plan Review	Decision	—	Appeal	Appeal
Development Agreement	—	—	Recommend	Decision
Amendments	—	—	Recommend	Decision

Notes:

1. "Recommend" means that the review authority makes a recommendation to a higher decision-making body; "Decision" means that the review authority makes the final decision on the matter; "Appeal" means that the review authority may consider and decide upon appeals to the decision of an earlier decision-making body.
2. Director has review authority over variances related to single-family residences subject to the general purposes of this title.
3. Projects in the RM, RH, C, OS, PS, PD and the H overlay districts.

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance (last updated 2008)

E.1.4 Density Bonus

The City's Affordable Housing Density Bonus requirements (Zoning Ordinance Section 17.70.270) implement the State's Density Bonus Law and supports inclusionary housing. The purpose of the affordable housing density bonus is to expand housing opportunities for very-low, low, and moderate income persons throughout the City.

Residential projects of five or more units may qualify for a density bonus over the maximum allowable base density of the district. A density bonus of 20 percent is granted to projects that have 5 percent of the total units set aside for very low income households. The density bonus can

be incrementally increased with each one percent of very low income units above the 5 percent, to a maximum density bonus of 35%. A similar scale is granted for projects that include low-income units or moderate-income units. Table E.12 summarizes the application of the City's density bonus program.

Developer concessions or incentives are granted for a residential project that meets the criteria for a density bonus projects. Incentives granted by the City include, but are not limited to, a flexibility in development, architectural or zoning standards, approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project, or other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the city or

Table E.12: Application of Density Bonus Program

Very Low Income Units		Low Income Units		Moderate Income Units	
% Very Low Income Unit	Permitted % Density Bonus	% Low Income Units	Permitted % Density Bonus	% Moderate Income Condo/PUD Units	Permitted % Density Bonus
5	20	10	20	10	5
6	22.5	11	21.5	11	6
7	25	12	23	20	15
8	27.5	14	26	25	20
9	30	16	29	30	25
10	32.5	18	32	35	30
11	35	20	35	40	35
35% Max Density Bonus		35% Max Density Bonus		35% Max Density Bonus	

Note:

1. Not all options for number of units are displayed. Table 10.70.270 in Section 17.70.270 of the Zoning Ordinance has the complete application.
2. A 1.5 percent density bonus granted.
3. A 1 percent density bonus granted.

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance, 2008

developer. The City allows for up to 3 concessions or incentives on an individual project, based on Planning Commission approval.

SB 1818 amended the State density bonus program (Government Code 65915) and became effective on January 1, 2005. Under SB 1818 applicants are eligible for an innovative new land donation density bonus, which allows for land donations within 1/4 mile of a project if the applicant demonstrates to the City that building the requisite number of affordable units onsite is infeasible and there is an identified source of funding for the very low income units. SB 1818 also limits parking requirements that may be imposed by the Zoning Ordinance's parking standards. AB 2280 was passed in September 2008 and most notably the bill amends the timing for density bonus requests, clarifies density bonus requirements for senior housing, and institutes a 10 percent across the board increase in the percentage of affordable units that must be included in a project to qualify for incentives. Program 1.04 updates the density bonus ordinance for compliance with recent changes in state law.

E.1.5 Historic Preservation

To promote the conservation, preservation, protection and enhancement of Benicia's historical and architecturally significant structures, the City adopted a Historic Overlay District (H) as part of the Benicia Zoning Ordinance in 1987. Accompanying Conservation Plans are intended to deter demolition, alteration, or neglect of historic resources through design review.

Two required Conservation Plans have been prepared to implement the Historic Overlay District ordinance: the Downtown Historic Conservation Plan (1990, amended 1992) and the Arsenal Historic Conservation Plan (1993). The Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan area is within the Downtown Historic District as defined in the Downtown Historic Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plans provide design guidelines for new development and alterations within Historic Districts.

Given the quality of Benicia's historical and architecturally significant structures, and the contribution of these structures to the image and

quality of life in Benicia, the historic preservation policies and regulations are reasonable and appropriate. Regulations are limited to two areas in Benicia, and as such, these regulations do not pose an unreasonable constraint to residential development in the City of Benicia.

E.1.6 Design Review

In Benicia, design review is required for all multifamily projects. In the Historic Overlay District design review is required for all residential projects that involve demolition, construction, or change in exterior.

According to Benicia's Zoning Ordinance, Design Review is intended to implement General Plan policies. Therefore, the purposes of these procedures and requirements are to:

1. Ensure location and configuration of structures are visually harmonious with their sites and with surrounding sites and structures;
2. Ensure architectural design of structures, their materials and colors are visually harmonious with surrounding development, the natural landforms, and vegetation;
3. Provide a functional, efficient, and attractive site design that is sensitive to existing uses in the area and to the topography and conditions of the site; and
4. Ensure that new development is consistent with specific design guidelines developed for use within the community, where applicable, and to any specific plan or planned development plan.

Projects undergoing design review are evaluated for architectural design, building massing, and appropriate scale to the surroundings and community. Proposed projects are required to submit a fully dimensional site plan, including but not limited to, proposed structures, driveways, walks, walls, fences and open spaces, property lines, right-of-way lines, etc. Architectural drawings and a landscaping plan is also required. The project must be consistent with the General Plan, and in compliance with any applicable design guidelines and/or adopted design review policies.

Based on an analysis of evidence and documentation, Benicia's design review process does not act as a constraint to the development of affordable housing. Both Administrative Design Review and the Historic Preservation Review Commission review are done within an acceptable timeframe. Additionally, design review is often conducted concurrently with other processing procedures to further streamline the development permit process.

E.1.7 On and Off Site Improvement Requirements

Generally, the developer passes on site and off site improvement costs to the homebuyer as part of the final cost of the home. To reduce housing costs, the City attempts to require only those improvements that are deemed necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare and those that are required by law like water and sewer fees.

Benicia requires the installation of certain on site and off site improvements to ensure the safety and livability of its residential neighborhoods. On site improvements are regulated by the Subdivision Ordinance and through standard engineering specifications, and applicable provisions of the Benicia Municipal Code. On site improvements typically include required off-street parking, curbs, and utilities, as well as amenities such as landscaping, fencing, streetlights, and park facilities. Off site improvements typically include the following (some of which are regulated by other agencies):

- Road improvements, including construction of sections of roadway, medians, bridges, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and lighting.
- Drainage improvements, including improvement to sections of channel, culverts, swales, and pond areas.
- Wastewater collection and treatment
- Water systems improvements, including lines, storage tanks, and treatment plants
- Public facilities for fire (Benicia Fire Department), school (Benicia Unified School

Table E.13: Street Improvement Requirements

Street Types	Right of Way
Major Arterial (Truck Route)	100 ft.
Major Arterial	84 ft.
Minor Arterial	60 ft. ¹
Collector	49 ft. ¹
Local	45 ft. ¹
Cul-de-Sac	41 ft. ¹
Alley	20 ft.

Note:

1. Plus a 10-ft. Public Service Easement on each side.

Source: City of Benicia Engineering Design Standards, 1992

District), and recreation (Benicia Parks and Community Services).

The site improvements that are under the jurisdiction of the City of Benicia have specific requirements, which are discussed below:

Street Improvements

Street improvement requirements are regulated by the Benicia Engineering Design Standards (see Table E.13).

a. General

Local streets are the primary streets used to support localized traffic and movement within residential areas. Collector streets are generally two lanes wide and serve most residential districts. Collectors connect local streets to minor and major arterials. Arterial streets link residential districts with the highway system.

b. Sidewalks and Curbs

Sidewalks are to be 4 feet wide in residential areas and a handicapped ramp is required at each intersection curb return (Benicia Engineering Design Standards, 1992).

Landscaping

Minimum site landscaping and required planting areas are established in Section 17.70.190 of the Zoning Ordinance. A minimum percent site

landscaping is required in most zones, The required landscaping percentages for each zone allowing residential development are as follows:

RS	35%
RM	30%
RH	30%
CC	20%
CO	20%
CG	10%
CW	20%
IL	10%

Parking

The City has provisions to reduce parking where less need is demonstrated. The Zoning Ordinance allows for collective provision of parking that serves more than one use of a site. A Use Permit may be granted that waives all or some of the provisions of basic requirements for off-street parking and loading. The Planning Commission may also reduce parking for other uses provided that the findings are made that the parking demand is less than the required number of spaces (Zoning Ordinance Chapter 17.74).

Table E.14 provides parking standards by use type.

E.1.8 Building Codes

While local regulations and fees increase housing costs, some building and housing regulations and fees are mandated by State law to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community or to protect existing residents from financial or environmental impacts.

Benicia enforces the California Building Code, as established by State law, which sets standards for residential and other structures. No local amendments have been made to the codes that would significantly increase housing costs. Building codes are enforced on a per complaint basis.

Table E.14 lists applicable parking space requirements for residential developments.

Table E.14: Parking Requirements by Use Type

Land Use Type: Residential Uses	Vehicle Spaces Required	
Districts in the Benicia Zoning Ordinance		
Single-family	2 including 1 covered space/unit	
Multifamily-Residential	Studio units	1.2 spaces per unit
	One or two bedroom units	1.5 spaces per unit
	Three or more bedrooms	2.0 spaces per unit
Group Residential	At least one space per unit shall be covered	
	1 per 2 beds; plus 1 per 100 sf used for assembly	
Live/Work Unit	1 per unit	
Day-Care, General	1 per 7 children; maximum enrollment based on maximum occupancy load	
Residential Care, 7 or more clients	1 per 3 beds; plus additional specified by use permit	
Residential Care, 6 or fewer clients	1 per 3 beds	
Senior Citizens Housing	0.5 spaces per unit	
Downtown Districts		
Residential Uses	TC and TC-O	NG and NG-O
	.5 space per studio unit 1 space per unit	.5 space per studio unit 1-2 bedroom unit: 1 space per unit 3+ bedroom unit: 1 space plus .5 space per bedroom over 2

Source: City of Benicia Zoning Ordinance (last updated 2008) and City of Benicia Downtown Mixed Use Master Plan, 2007

E.1.9 Governmental Constraints on Housing Production for Persons with Disabilities

As part of the governmental constraints analysis, State law calls for the analysis of potential and actual constraints upon the development, maintenance and improvement of housing for persons with disabilities. Table E.15 reviews not only the Zoning Ordinance, but also land use policies, permitting practices, and building codes to ensure compliance with State and federal fair housing laws. Where necessary, the City proposes new policies or programs to remove constraints.

No governmental constraints to development of housing for disabled persons were identified within the City.

There are no special permits or requirements for homes or development for disabled persons in zones where the use would be otherwise permitted.

The City permits by right residential care homes of up to six persons in all residential areas. Occupancy of the residential care homes is not restricted to exclude protected categories such as persons with disabilities. The City also allows the siting of residential care homes of seven or more with approval of a use permit in the RM, RH, CC, and CO districts. Through the defined requirements for approval of these residential care homes greater certainty is provided to the applicant and less impediments to fair housing choice exist for disabled or other persons with special needs.

Table E.15: Constraints on Housing for Persons with Disabilities

Overarching and General	
Does the City have a process for persons with disabilities to make requests for reasonable accommodation?	Program 5.03 has been proposed for the City to adopt a reasonable accommodation ordinance.
Has the City made efforts to remove constraints on housing for persons with disabilities?	There are no special permits or requirements for homes or development for disabled persons. In most cases, these developments are permitted use, making them the simplest projects.
Does the City assist in meeting identified needs?	Yes
Zoning and Land Use	
Has the City reviewed all its zoning laws, policies, and practices for compliance with fair housing law?	Yes, the City has reviewed the land use regulations and practices to ensure compliance with fair housing laws. (Note: The General Plan and Zoning Ordinance were deemed in compliance with State laws at the time of adoption.)
Are residential parking standards for persons with disabilities different from other parking standards?	Section 17.74.020 of the City Zoning Ordinance (Handicapped Parking) mandates the provision of disabled parking spaces in accordance with Chapter 2-71 of Title 24 of the California Administrative Code. The Planning Commission can reduce parking requirements if a proposal can demonstrate a reduced parking need.
Does the City have a policy or program for the reduction of parking requirements for special needs housing if a proponent can demonstrate a reduced parking need?	
Does the locality restrict the siting of group homes?	No. Residential care homes of up to 6 are permitted by right in residential districts. Only residential care homes of 7 or more require approval of a use permit (in RM, RH, CC, and CO districts).
What zones allow group homes? other than those allowed by State law? Are group homes? over six persons allowed?	Residential care homes are allowed in the CW district in addition to the residential districts. Residential care homes of 7 or more are permitted with a use permit in the RM, RH, CC, and CO districts.
Does the City have occupancy standards in the zoning code that apply specifically to unrelated adults and not to families?	No
Does the land use element regulate the siting of special needs housing in relationship to one another?	No. There is no minimum distance required between two or more special needs housing.

Table E.15: Constraints on Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Continued)

Permits and Processing	
How does the City process a request to retrofit homes for accessibility?	Program 5.02 has been proposed for the City to adopt a reasonable accommodation ordinance.
Does the City allow group homes ¹ with six or fewer persons by right in single-family zones?	Yes.
Does the City have a set of particular conditions or use restrictions for group homes ¹ with greater than six persons?	Residential care homes of 7 or more are permitted in special districts with a Use Permit, which establishes conditions.
What kind of community input does the City allow for the approval of group homes?	Residential care homes of 6 or less clients are allowed with over the counter review in the RS, RM, and RH districts. Administrative review is a routine land use approval that involves staff checking to ensure that zoning requirements will be satisfied. Facilities with 7 or more residents that require a Use Permit undergo more review and are open to more input from the Community. The Use Permit provides the public with an opportunity to review the project and express their concerns in a public hearing.
Does the City have particular conditions for group homes that will be providing services on site?	No, the City does not have special standards for group homes providing services on site.
Building Codes	
Has the locality adopted the International Building Code?	The State of California has adopted the International Building Code with amendments specific to California. The City adopted the 2007 California Building Code in 2008. More information can be found in Title/Chapter 15 of the Benicia Municipal Code.
Has the City adopted any universal design element into the code?	The City will encourage the incorporation of universal design in new construction through the implementation of this Housing Element. See Program 5.02.
Does the City provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the enforcement of building codes and the issuance of building permits?	Program 5.03 has been proposed for the City to adopt a reasonable accommodation ordinance.

Notes:

1. Benicia Zoning Ordinance refers to “group homes” per the state law definition, as residential care homes.

Source: City of Benicia

E.2 Non-governmental Constraints

The availability and cost of housing is strongly influenced by market factors over which local governments have little or no control. Nonetheless, State law requires that the Housing Element contain a general assessment of these constraints. This assessment can serve as the basis for actions to offset the effects of such constraints. The primary non-governmental constraints to the development of new housing in Benicia are land costs, construction costs, and environmental constraints.

E.2.1 Land Costs

Costs associated with the acquisition of land include both the market price of raw land and the cost of holding the property throughout the development process. These costs can account for over half of the final sales prices of new homes in very small developments and in areas where land is scarce. Among the variables affecting the cost of land are its location, amenities, the availability and proximity of public services, and financing arrangements. Recent listings for unimproved parcels in all areas of Benicia ranged from \$384,600 to \$2.3 million per acre. There are a greater number of vacant lots available in the unincorporated areas of the County near Benicia.

E.2.2 Construction Costs

Construction costs vary widely depending on the type, size, and amenities of the development. According to the Construction Industry Research Board, construction costs for typical single-family residential buildings average \$125 per square foot; however, construction costs can run as high as \$250 or more per square foot on lots with steep slopes or other environmental constraints.

E.2.3 Environmental and Physical Constraints

The following potential physical and environmental constraints may affect development regulated by the City of Benicia by limiting the development potential and/or adding mitigation costs to a project:

Environmental Constraints

A cover of non-native grassland and property landscaping dominates vegetation within the City. However, four sensitive plant communities are known to occur in Benicia:

- Northern Coastal Salt Marsh and Coastal Brackish Marsh
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Valley Needlegrass Grassland
- Willow Riparian Forest and Willow Scrub

Three special status species are known to occur in Benicia: soft bird's beak, Delta tule pea, and Congdon's tar plant. The City also protects unique vegetation communities that support sensitive species, including the Golden Violet populations and eucalyptus groves.

Because the City recognizes the importance of trees for their contribution to community character and environmental health, specific regulations for the removal and maintenance of trees have been established in the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 12.24 Trees and Street Trees). Any action on specific Protected Trees, which includes California Native Trees and heritage trees, requires a tree removal or pruning permit. The requirement for a permit acts as a tool to enhance the residential environment and ensure the preservation of a natural setting.

Although native vegetation within the City has been substantially altered, the marshlands and tracts of undeveloped land provide habitat for a diverse selection of resident and migrant wildlife. Seven special status animal species are known to occur in Benicia: the calliope silverspot butterfly, golden eagle, salt marsh harvest mouse, Suisun shrew, Suisun song sparrow, California clapper rail, California black rail, and Suisun marsh aster. Barriers to wildlife movement and migration and the removal of raptor nesting sites are to be avoided in future development. The occurrence of any of these species on a site could pose constraints to a housing project.

Physical Constraints

Several physical constraints may occur in the City. Parcels with steep slopes may have constraints associated with landslide hazards. Landslides are relatively rare in the developed portions of the City, as compared to in the hilly, undeveloped areas of the City. Stationary noise sources near potential sites for development may pose constraints.

For example, traffic on I-680 and I-780 exceed acceptable noise levels. Housing may be limited within 500 feet of I-680 and I-780 under CEQA, due to the health hazards of siting sensitive uses near urban roads with over 100,000 vehicles per day. Low lying areas of the City are subject to flooding during a 100-year storm (See Figure G.1). The last severe flooding, and associated economic loss, occurred in 1986. The City has adopted management plans to assist in the prevention and mitigation of loss associated with flooding and stormwater infrastructure. The Watershed Storm Drainage System Plan was adopted/completed in June 1982. The Stormwater Management Plan was completed in 2003/4 and is updated annually. Improvements associated with the implementation of these plans have significantly reduced flooding occurrences.

Since adoption of the 1982 and 2003/4 plans, the City has completed over 40 storm drainage improvement projects. Included in these improvements projects are the I & I Project and the Marina Area Storm Drain Project.

E.3 Energy Conservation

Maximizing energy efficiency and developments incorporating energy conservation and green building features into new and existing buildings can help reduce housing costs for homeowners and renters. Reduced dependence on automobiles can result from compact development in an urban setting that provides walkability and proximity to transit and services. Additionally, maximizing energy efficiency renders a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global climate change. In response to recent legislation on global climate change (AB 32 and SB 375),

local governments are now required to implement measures that cut greenhouse gas emissions attributable to land use decisions (see discussion on Global Climate Change below). The Housing Element programs can support energy efficiency that benefits both the market and the changing climate by:

- Establishing a more compact urban core, bringing residents close to work and services, therefore reducing automobile trips and reducing emissions that add to the global climate change.
- Implementing passive solar construction techniques that require solar orientation, thermal massing, and other energy efficient design techniques.
- Encouraging water and space heating by solar energy.

Executive Order S-E-05, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on June 1, 2005, set into action the first steps in establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in California. This was followed by the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) in 2007, which required California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish reduction measures.

The City facilitates energy conservation by:

- Through application of State residential building standards that establish energy performance criteria for new residential buildings (Title 24 of the California Administrative Code).
- The City is currently preparing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to guide greenhouse gas reductions and comply with AB 32 and SB 375. Some of the following may be included in the CAP:
 - Adoption of the Build It Green "GreenPoint Rated" certification system for residential buildings.
 - Promotion of local green building projects.
 - Adoption of Build it Green's home remodel standards.
 - Conducting energy audits
 - Providing rebates for energy efficiency through partnerships with local utility

providers. PG&E's existing rebate program is described below.

- Decreasing or banning wood burning
- Promoting use of compact fluorescent lightbulbs

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) provides a variety of energy conservation services for residents and several other energy assistance programs for lower income households. These programs include the Energy Watch Partnerships and the Charitable Contributions Program.

The Energy Watch Partnerships help residents lower their energy bills and promote cleaner energy production. Through Energy Watch Partnerships PG&E has extended the reach of effectiveness of energy efficiency programs and provided information about demand responses programs, renewable energy, and self-generations opportunities.

The Charitable Contributions Program gives millions of dollars each year to non-profit organizations to support environmental and energy sustainability. Projects that are funded include residential and community solar energy distribution projects, public education projects, and energy efficiency programs. The goal is to ensure that 75% of the dollars assist underserved communities, which includes low income households, people with disabilities, and seniors.

PG&E also offers rebates for energy efficient home appliances and remodeling. Residents can apply for a variety of rebates that make it more affordable in the short term to save energy and money in the long term. Rebates are available for cooling and heating equipment, lighting, seasonal appliances and remodeling (cool roofs, insulation, water heaters). These opportunities are available to all income levels and housing types.

Energy Consumption

Residential water heating and space heating/cooling are major sources of energy consumption. With the application of energy efficient design and the use of solar power systems, these sources can be operated on a much more efficient and

sustainable level.

By encouraging solar energy technology for residential heating/cooling in both retrofits and new construction the City can play a major role in energy conservation. There are two distinct approaches to solar heating, active and passive:

- Active systems use mechanical equipment to collect and transport heat, such as a roof plate collector system used in solar water and space heaters.
- Passive systems use certain types of building materials to absorb solar energy and can transmit that energy later, without mechanization.

The best method to encourage use of these solar systems for heating and cooling is to not restrict their use in the zoning and building ordinances and to require subdivision layouts that facilitate solar use.

Residential water heating can be made more energy efficient through the application of solar water heating technologies. Solar water heating uses the sun to heat water, which is then stored for later use, a conventional water heater is needed only as a back up. By cutting the amount of natural gas needed to heat water 50-75 percent per building, solar water heating systems can lower energy bills and reduce global warming pollution. The City has the opportunity to implement solar technologies with the help of recent legislation. The Solar Water Heating and Efficiency Act of 2007 (AB 1470) has proposed to create a \$250 million ten-year program to provide consumer rebates for solar water heating systems.

Global Climate Change

The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature and is known as the "greenhouse effect". Without these natural gases, the Earth's surface would be approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit cooler. Emissions from human activities such as electricity production and automobiles have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere,

this is referred to global warming or more recently termed - global climate change. Examples of greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. The increased consumption of fossil fuels (wood, coal, gasoline, etc.) has substantially increased atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases. New housing development may contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, but careful site planning and design, and the selection of environmentally friendly building materials and equipment can significantly reduce these emission levels.

There are significant areas where Benicia can do more to encourage energy conservation in new and existing residential development to reduce the demand on energy production. There are a variety of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies available that can be integrated into land use decisions related to housing.

The City seeks to help minimize the percentage of household income that must be dedicated to energy costs as well as minimize the production of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. Programs have been included to incorporate newly adopted state energy efficiency standards and to encourage alternative energy efficient technologies.

Appendix F:
Vacant, Constrained
Vacant, and
Opportunity Sites
Database

Vacant Buildable Sites											
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infra-structure Capacity
Single Family Residential											
1	88215060	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
2	87112130	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
3	87154100	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
4	89074100	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
5	88131210	6,750	0.15	RS	RLD	7	1.08	5.6	0.87	Vacant	Yes
6	87074150	12,500	0.29	RS	RLD	7	2.01	5.6	1.61	Vacant	Yes
7	87070530	13,687	0.31	RS	RLD	7	2.20	5.6	1.76	Vacant	Yes
8	89034040	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
9	86091760	6,442	0.15	RS	RLD	7	1.04	5.6	0.83	Vacant	Yes
10	89092410	10,790	0.25	RS	RLD	7	1.73	5.6	1.39	Vacant	Yes
11	88215050	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
12	86047040	36,750	0.84	RS	RLD	7	5.91	5.6	4.72	Vacant	Yes
13	87093190	21,766	0.50	RS	RLD	7	3.50	5.6	2.80	Vacant	Yes
14	89021150	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
15	89074090	21,875	0.50	RS	RLD	7	3.52	5.6	2.81	Vacant	Yes
16	87134370	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
17	87112180	7,840	0.18	RS	RLD	7	1.26	5.6	1.01	Vacant	Yes
18	87070520	8,971	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.44	5.6	1.15	Vacant	Yes
19	89034020	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
20	86091740	8,530	0.20	RS	RLD	7	1.37	5.6	1.10	Vacant	Yes
21	88224010	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
22	87044180	8,435	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.36	5.6	1.08	Vacant	Yes
23	87142330	10,012	0.23	RS	RLD	7	1.61	5.6	1.29	Vacant	Yes
24	86062060	37,500	0.86	RS	RLD	7	6.03	5.6	4.82	Vacant	Yes
25	88215040	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
26	89074080	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
27	89092680	7,405	0.17	RS	RLD	7	1.19	5.6	0.95	Vacant	Yes
28	88215070	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
29	87112170	6,969	0.16	RS	RLD	7	1.12	5.6	0.90	Vacant	Yes
30	87161010	15,750	0.36	RS	RLD	7	2.53	5.6	2.02	Vacant	Yes
31	89076090	14,810	0.34	RS	RLD	7	2.38	5.6	1.90	Vacant	Yes
32	86041140	9,200	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.48	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
33	87074160	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
34	89072170	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
35	89092690	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
36	86041230	7,065	0.16	RS	RLD	7	1.14	5.6	0.91	Vacant	Yes
37	88182320	14,201	0.33	RS	RLD	7	2.28	5.6	1.83	Vacant	Yes
38	88224020	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
39	88224030	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
40	87161220	16,900	0.39	RS	RLD	7	2.72	5.6	2.17	Vacant	Yes
41	89072150	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes

Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infra-structure Capacity
42	89021190	6,750	0.15	RS	RLD	7	1.08	5.6	0.87	Vacant	Yes
43	87112160	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
44	88131070	6,875	0.16	RS	RLD	7	1.12	5.6	0.90	Vacant	Yes
45	88164050	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
46	88166020	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
47	89074030	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
48	89076010	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
49	86046280	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.54	5.6	1.23	Vacant	Yes
50	86050040	6,000	0.13	RS	RLD	7	0.91	5.6	0.73	Vacant	Yes
51	86050030	7,120	0.16	RS	RLD	7	1.12	5.6	0.90	Vacant	Yes
52	88012500	14,855	0.34	RS	RLD	7	2.38	5.6	1.90	Vacant	Yes
53	89021290	10,813	0.24	RS	RLD	7	1.68	5.6	1.34	Vacant	Yes
54	89021300	9,868	0.23	RS	RLD	7	1.61	5.6	1.29	Vacant	Yes
55	89064100	12,632	0.29	RS	RLD	7	2.03	5.6	1.62	Vacant	Yes
56	89034100	25,500	0.59	RS	RLD	7	4.13	5.6	3.30	Vacant	Yes
57	86291020	6,098	0.14	RS	RLD	7	0.98	5.6	0.78	Vacant	Yes
58	86382010	9,583	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.54	5.6	1.23	Vacant	Yes
59	86491610	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
60	87073270	12,275	0.28	RS	RLD	7	1.97	5.6	1.58	Vacant	Yes
61	87142300	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
62	87142320	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
63	87200180	7,520	0.17	RS	RLD	7	1.21	5.6	0.97	Vacant	Yes
64	89012310	6,375	0.15	RS	RLD	7	1.02	5.6	0.82	Vacant	Yes
65	89074020	12,500	0.29	RS	RLD	7	2.03	5.6	1.62	Vacant	Yes
	Total	755,174	17.33				121.33		97.06		
Medium Density Residential											
66	89103230 ¹	55,662	0.13	RM	RMD	14	1.82	11.2	1.46	Vacant	Yes
	Total	55,662	0.13				1.82		1.46		
Office Commercial											
67	80150330	22,215	0.51	CO	OC	14	7.14	11.2	5.71	Arsenal	Yes
68	80150390	23,958	0.55	CO	OC	14	7.70	11.2	6.16	Arsenal	Yes
69	80150380	158,994	3.65	CO	OC	14	51.10	11.2	40.88	Arsenal	Yes
70	80150400	64,469	1.48	CO	OC	14	20.72	11.2	16.58	Arsenal	Yes
71	80150410	70,132	1.61	CO	OC	14	22.54	11.2	18.03	Arsenal	Yes
72	80150320	30,927	0.71	CO	OC	14	9.94	11.2	7.95	Arsenal	Yes
	Total	370,695	8.51				119.14		95.31		
Town Core											
73	89043100	6,300	0.14	TC	Town Core	21	2.94	16.8	2.35	Vacant	Yes

¹This parcel is located in a FEMA floodzone

Appendix F: Vacant Land Database

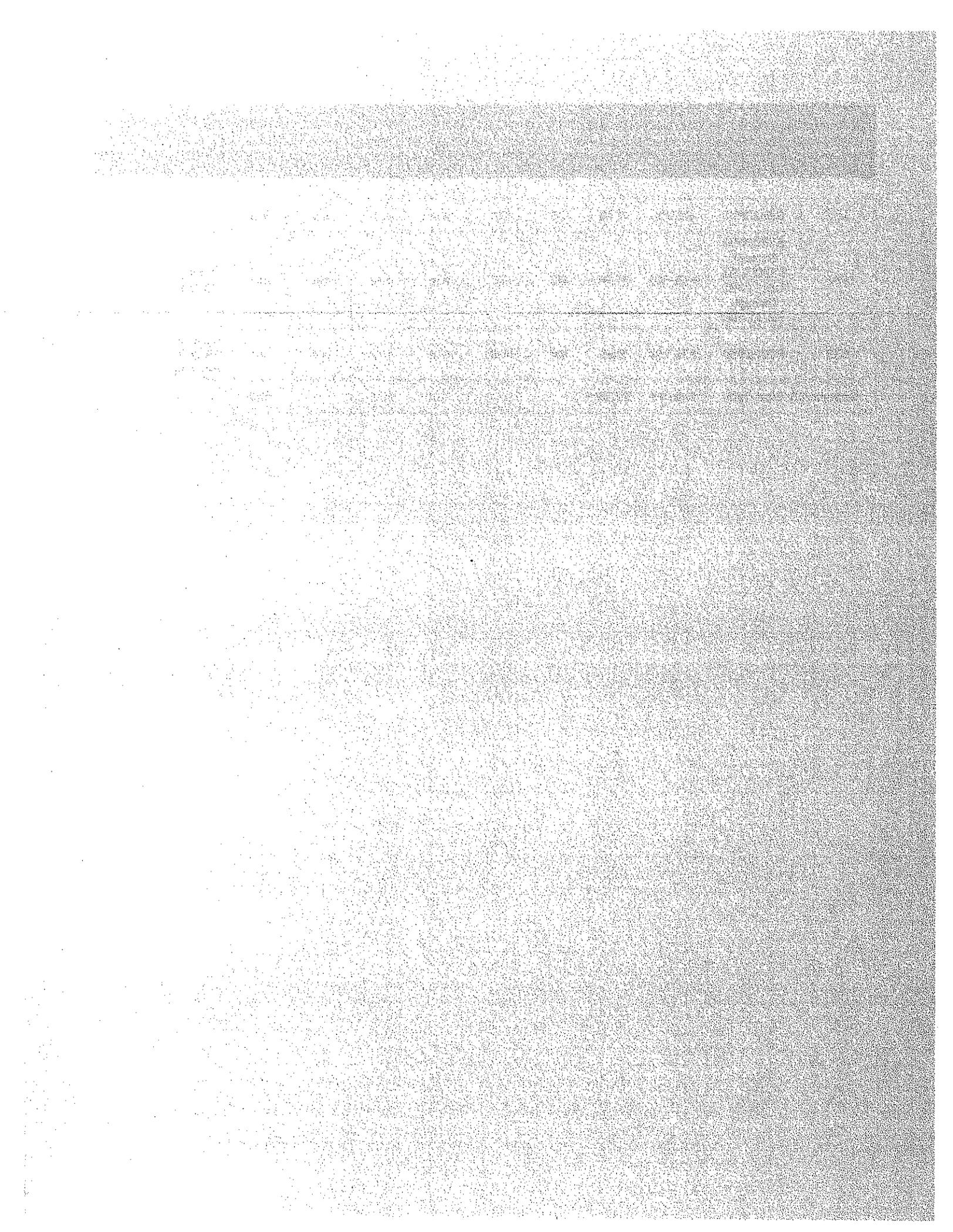
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infrastructure Capacity
74	89371030	35,321	0.81	TC	Town Core	21	17.01	16.8	13.61	Vacant	Yes
75	89372090	37,500	0.86	TC	Town Core	21	18.06	16.8	14.45	Vacant	Yes
76	89044030	7,663	0.18	TC	Town Core	21	3.78	16.8	3.02	Vacant	Yes
	Total	86,784	1.99				41.79		33.43		
Vacant Buildable Sites Total		1,268,315	27.96				284.08		226.39		
Constrained Vacant Sites											
Single Family Residential											
77	87144060	1,064	0.02	RS	RLD	7	0.17	5.6	0.14	Vacant	Yes
78	89031130	5,320	0.12	RS	RLD	7	0.85	5.6	0.68	Vacant	Yes
79	88131240	5,130	0.12	RS	RLD	7	0.82	5.6	0.66	Vacant	Yes
80	87134660	3,148	0.07	RS	RLD	7	0.49	5.6	0.39	Vacant	Yes
81	87134670	3,750	0.09	RS	RLD	7	0.63	5.6	0.50	Vacant	Yes
82	86092050	3,125	0.07	RS	RLD	7	0.50	5.6	0.40	Vacant	Yes
83	87134510	5,662	0.13	RS	RLD	7	0.91	5.6	0.73	Vacant	Yes
84	87161140	2,900	0.07	RS	RLD	7	0.47	5.6	0.37	Vacant	Yes
85	87161150	2,900	0.07	RS	RLD	7	0.47	5.6	0.37	Vacant	Yes
86	88151160	5,662	0.13	RS	RLD	7	0.91	5.6	0.73	Vacant	Yes
87	88230050	3,795	0.09	RS	RLD	7	0.61	5.6	0.49	Vacant	Yes
88	89092710	4,356	0.10	RS	RLD	7	0.70	5.6	0.56	Vacant	Yes
	Total	46,812	1.08				7.53		6.03		
Limited Industrial											
89	80330070	99,317	2.28	IL	LI	21	47.88	16.8	38.30	Vacant	Yes
	Total	99,317	2.28				47.88		38.30		
General Commercial											
90	88092150	6,250	0.14	CG	GC	21	2.94	16.8	2.35		Yes
91	88124040	11,055	0.25	CG	GC	21	5.25	16.8	4.20		Yes
92	88132180	7,405	0.17	CG	GC	21	3.57	16.8	2.86		Yes
93	87200090	16,678	0.38	CG	GC	21	8.04	16.8	6.43	Vacant	Yes
94	80150010	23,958	0.55	CG	GC	21	11.55	16.8	9.24	Arsenal	Yes
	Total	89,304	0.94				19.80		15.84		
Neighborhood General-Open											
95	89044330	4,792	0.11	NG-O	Neighborhood General-Open	14	1.54	11.2	1.23	Vacant	Yes
	Total	4,792	0.11				1.54		1.23		
Vacant Constrained Sites Total		240,225	4.41				76.75		61.40		

Opportunity Sites											
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max du/ac	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infra structure Capacity
96	87143130	71,003	1.63	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
97	89053050	18,730	0.43	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
98	88143310	20,405	0.46	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
99	88131090	8,712	0.20	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
100	88133090	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
101	87093180	61,419	1.41	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
102	87462130	35,719	0.82	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
103	87464190	13,939	0.32	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
104	87464180	13,068	0.30	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
105	87462160	35,283	0.81	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
106	87122200	18,730	0.43	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
107	86104010	10,890	0.25	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
108	86101040	37,461	0.86	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
109	86041130	20,037	0.46	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
110	86091650	60,112	1.38	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
111	89013050	18,730	0.43	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
112	89014080	15,246	0.35	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
113	89034060	18,730	0.43	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
114	89111020	16,117	0.37	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
115	87071200	10,956	0.25	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
116	88083310	7,405	0.17	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
117	88134220	3,004	0.06	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
118	88134230	3,004	0.06	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
119	88134240	3,154	0.07	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
120	88134250	3,102	0.07	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
121	88134260	3,102	0.07	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
122	88134270	3,343	0.07	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
123	89072160	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
124	89044330	5,000	0.11	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes

Appendix F: Vacant Land Database

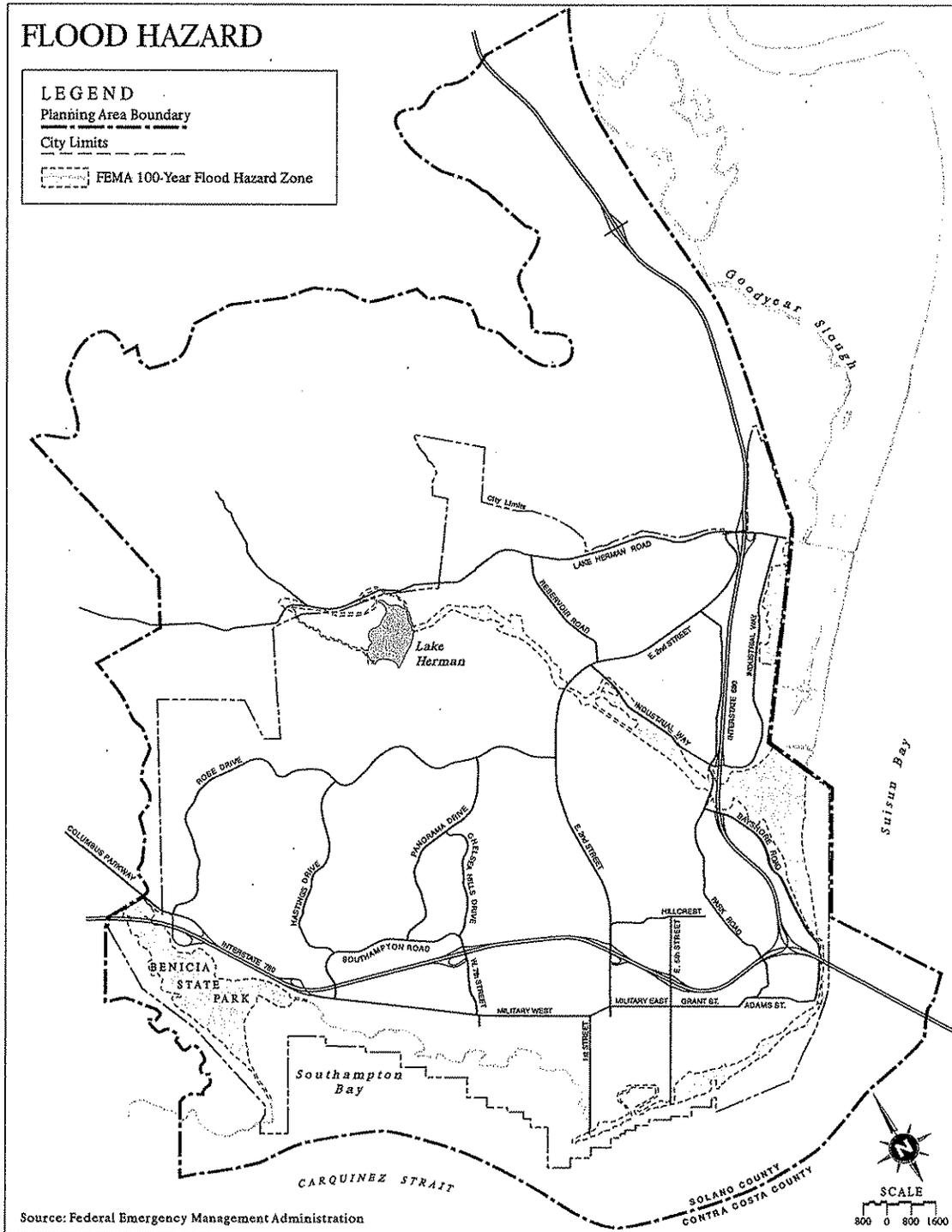
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infrastructure Capacity
125	80150020	22,215	0.51	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
126	86394120	3,484	0.08	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Vacant	Yes
127	89053150	4,375	0.10	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Vacant	Yes
128	89371020	18,750	0.43	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
129	87144010	15,675	0.36	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
130	89042080	18,750	0.43	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
131	88124130	18,750	0.43	RH	RHD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
132	80180200	43,560	1.00	RH	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
133	89053110	18,750	0.43	PS	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
134	89053100	9,375	0.22	PS	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
135	89053090	9,375	0.22	PS	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
136	88141070	41,000	0.94	PS	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
137	88113010	41,250	0.95	PS	Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
138	88141050	20,364	0.47	PS	Pub & Semi-Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	City Hall parking lot	Yes
139	88113020	8,712	0.20	PS	Pub & Semi-Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
140	86151100	595,465	13.67	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Southampton Center	Yes
141	89372180	18,730	0.43	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
142	89173190	5,632	0.12	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
143	89174040	7,500	0.17	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
144	89052170	4,500	0.10	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
145	89052160	3,750	0.09	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
146	89371110	72,309	1.66	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	parking lot	Yes
147	88123150	14,850	0.34	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
148	88132010	18,750	0.43	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	service station	Yes
149	87074130	18,125	0.42	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
150	89044320	6,250	0.14	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes

Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infrastructure Capacity
151	89012250	33,000	0.76	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
152	87200090 through 87200130; 88111020 through 88111090	418,612	27.94	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Solano Square	Yes
153	87021080	376,794	8.65	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Capitol Heights Housing	Yes
Opportunity Sites Total		2,443,575	27.52				n/a		n/a		



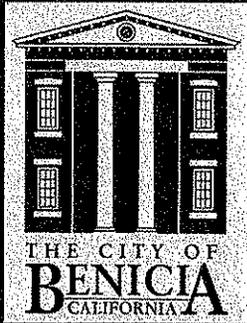
Appendix G: Flood Hazard Map

Figure G.1 Benicia Flood Hazard Map



Appendix H: Public Participation Materials

YOU ARE INVITED...



Come to the workshops.

Your voice matters...

Contact: (707) 746-4280

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

We're serious about making a difference.

How can Benicia, as a community, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions?

Introductory Presentation

7:00 PM Thursday, October 9, 2008

City Hall Council Chambers
250 East L Street, Benicia

Workshop

6:30 PM Thursday, November 13, 2008

Senior Center

187 East L Street, Benicia

HOUSING ELEMENT

It's time to update the City of Benicia's housing plan.

What are Benicia's housing needs? How will we grow? Where and how we house our citizens in the future will be one of the most important decisions we will be making.

Benicia Housing Expo

10:00 AM Friday, October 3, 2008

10:00 AM Saturday, October 4, 2008

Veteran's Memorial Building

1500 First Street, Benicia

Program Available Online

For more information, go to www.ci.benicia.ca.us and click on the Community Development Department's homepage.

1150 First Street
October 3 and 4, 2008



CITY OF BENICIA - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

HOUSING ELEMENT

Housing Expo Event Guide

It's time to update the City's 1999-2006 Housing Plan.

Mandated by the State, the "Housing Element" is a plan that spells out Benicia's goals, policies, and programs to address the community's housing needs.

The plan is updated on a cyclical basis, roughly every 5 to 7 years, consistent with population forecasts. Although the State directs plan production and contents, cities decide where and how new housing will occur.

Housing is a need shared by everyone. Ensuring that housing is attainable

for people with varied incomes has a direct effect on our quality of life and economic development. A healthy supply of housing helps achieve a jobs/housing balance by providing options for workers to live in the city rather than commute should they prefer to do so. This is one of the basic building blocks of sustainable communities.

Where we decide to grow will be more important than ever as cities across the state work to address land use patterns in response to the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

The Housing Element is an opportunity to address

growth by selectively concentrating new development near existing infrastructure, transit options, and everyday needs.

Growth and change will occur. We have the opportunity to plan for it so Benicia can benefit from it.

We hope you join the conversation!



Bay Ridge at Rose Drive.

Get Involved!

The top 10 reasons to participate:

1. Assist in creating a new and updated Housing Element.
2. Identify housing concerns and suggest solutions.
3. Help decide where and how new housing will occur.

4. Tell us what housing types are acceptable in Benicia.

5. Help address greenhouse gas emissions by selecting the right areas to locate new housing.

6. Participation is key to understanding and achieving

community goals.

7. The plan is more likely to be implemented with broad community support.

8. To visit affordable housing.

9. Housing is a basic need.

10. Your voice matters!

Inside:	Page
October 3—Morning Session	2
October 3—Afternoon Session	2
October 3—Open House & Refreshments	2
October 4—Hands On Activities	3
October 4—Closing Presentation	3
October 21—Outcomes Report	3
Project Schedule, Contact Info, and Participation	4

Unit Count and Affordability:

2007-2014 Housing Allocation

2007-2014 Housing Allocation		
Median Income	\$61,533	
Affordable Categories	Units	Income Range
Very Low (<50%)	147	<\$30,766
Low (50%-80%)	99	\$30,766-\$49,226
Moderate (80%-120%)	108	\$49,226-\$73,839
Above Moderate (120%+)	178	>\$73,839
Total	532	

Day One—Morning Session

10:00 AM

Welcome, Introductions & Overview

Join us for coffee and bagels as staff and consultants present an overview of the Housing Element and set the context for the update.

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Housing 101

This session covers Housing Element basics. Topics presented include: Housing Element purpose and objectives, contents of a Housing Element, State requirements and new legislation, and the update process. In addition, the



DOWNTOWN BENICIA

Regional Housing Needs Allocation will be presented along with a discussion about how affordable housing gets produced.

This presentation will be followed by a

panel discussion with representatives from the State Department of Housing and Community Development, City staff, technical consultants, and local housing experts. This session concludes with Q & A with the audience.

- Charlie Knox, Community Development Director, City of Benicia
- Lisa Porras, Project Manager, Planner, City of Benicia
- Lisa Wise, Principal, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.
- Paul McDougall, Housing Policy Manager, State Department of Housing & Community Development
- Mary Frances Kelly Peh, Community Action Coalition
- Julie Peterson, Benicia Housing Authority (invited)
- Robert Moore, Affordable Housing Affiliation (invited)

Day One—Afternoon Sessions

1:15 - 2:45 PM

Housing Strategies

Participate in a candid discussion with representatives from the State, consultant team, and the City. What are the challenges facing Benicia? What options should be explored? These experts can answer questions and discuss issues in more depth in this setting.

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Open House & Refreshments

Drop in to learn about the highlights of the day, what was learned from the State, and the choices before Benicia.

Learn about the next

day's activities and how you can help shape the housing goals and policies for Benicia through the year 2014.

"Solano County will see a 22% increase in its population, to 585,800 residents by 2035."

ABAG

Did You Know?

The State's primary objectives are to:

1. Increase housing supply and mix of housing types, and ensure housing is affordable.
2. Promote a balance between the number of jobs and housing units.
3. Encourage efficient development patterns and urban infill.

In 2002, the Bay Area's regional agencies developed the following policies:

- Support existing communities.
- Create compact communities with a diversity of housing, jobs, services.
- Increase housing choices.
- Improve housing affordability.
- Increase transportation efficiency and choices.



House in a downtown neighborhood, west of First Street.

- Protect natural habitat, open space, and agricultural land.
- Improve social & economic equity.
- Promote economic & fiscal health.
- Conserve resources, promote sustainability, improve environmental quality.
- Protect public health and safety.

Day Two—Morning & Afternoon Session

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Affordable Housing Tour

(All Day) This is an activity you can choose to do on your own. Put on your comfortable walking shoes and explore existing affordable housing throughout Benicia. Maps and brief survey/rating sheet are provided.

Vacant/Opportunity Sites Tour

(All Day) This is another on your own activity. Staff will provide you with maps and a list of potential sites where new development or neighborhood retrofit could take place. We want your feedback.

Goal, Policy, & Program

Development

(10:00 - 11:00 am, and 1:00 - 2:00 pm)

Participate in a group setting to receive an overview of current policies and programs. Tell us how these might be improved.

Visual Preference Survey

(All Day) Comment and critique development patterns and housing types. Tell us what housing types are preferred in Benicia.

Idea Gallery

(All Day) Express yourself. You can write it here.

Map it!

(11:00 am - 12:00 pm, and 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm) Where should housing be placed? What criteria should we use to place our future growth and which neighborhoods can be improved?

Vision Exercise

(All Day) What is your vision for Benicia 10-20 years from now? How do you envision the future of your city?

Day Two—Open House Closing Presentation & Preliminary Outcomes

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Stop by to view an exhibit of the Housing Expo results.

Where were the preferred locations for new growth and housing? How did people respond to the Visual Preference survey? What were the most desired housing types? Visit the Idea Gallery and see what your neighbors think. See

how Benicians envision their city 10-20 years from now.

Although the Housing Element is a State mandate, Benicia will decide how and where new housing will occur.

Staff and consultants will give an overview of the Expo's preliminary results, explain the next steps and tell you how you can stay involved and help shape Benicia's

new and updated Housing Element through the year 2014.

Refreshments will be served.

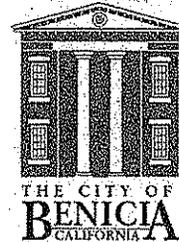
Save the Date! Reporting the Outcomes

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

The City Council and Planning Commissioners will receive a report detailing the outcomes of the Housing Expo. What was discovered? How will these results guide the development of a new Housing Element for the City? The report will be posted online and made available at the First Street Library. Come to the meeting and let city deci-

sion makers hear your thoughts about the report. Remember, the outcomes of the Housing Expo provides the foundation for the Housing Element.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. The City Council will convene at 7:00 PM inside Council Chambers, City Hall located at 250 East L Street in Benicia.



City of Benicia Housing Expo

Affordable Housing Tour

Housing Element Update, 2007-2014

October 4, 2008

Did you know?

- Not all high density housing is affordable housing.
- No study in California has ever shown that affordable housing developments reduce property values.
- New affordable and high density housing can always be designed to fit into existing communities.
- Compact development offers greater efficiency in use of public services and infrastructure.
- The design and use of public spaces has a far more significant affect on crime than density or income levels.

Affordable Housing Sites:

Capitol Heights Public Housing Development	2
Casa de Vilarrosa: I & II	3
Bay Ridge Apartments	4
Burgess Point Apartments	5
Hearthstone Village	6
Clipper Bay	7
Clos Duvall Court	8
Habitat for Humanity	9

It's nice to meet you.

This tour allows you to become acquainted with affordable housing in Benicia. Some of these sites you can walk to, others may require you to drive. It really depends where you start the tour.

While this brochure provides locations and quick facts about the 8 sites, we do not require that you visit them all. It's entirely up to you. You might even discover that you live close by. You can also visit these sites after the Housing Expo is over.

The City of Benicia is interested in hearing your thoughts about the location and design of affordable housing that is already built in the City.

Together, we can learn

from these examples as we consider our options for locating new housing units in the future.

Housing types, densities, and character can vary from place to place. There is no one size fits all solution.

Our hope is that these examples can inform you about more about affordable housing, what it can look like, and how it can fit within existing neighborhoods.

Please view each of these sites from the sidewalk or street. Because people live here, we ask that you respect the privacy of the residents and do not enter into private property.

Thank you and enjoy the tour!

Take the survey.

This tour also includes a short survey to take along with you as you visit each site. Remember to turn in your completed survey. These can be dropped off to us during the Housing Expo at 1150 First Street. If you cannot make it

back to the Expo, you are welcome to drop the survey off at City Hall, Planning Division, 250 East L Street. See staff at the Public Counter and they will be glad to receive it. Staff will consolidate the

comments and outline the results in an upcoming report to be presented to the City Council on October 21.

We thank you for your participation!

Capitol Heights Public Housing Development

This 75-unit housing complex was built in 1954.

Owned and operated by the Benicia Housing Authority.

Sits on almost 9 acres.

Located at Riverhill Drive and Bayview Circle.

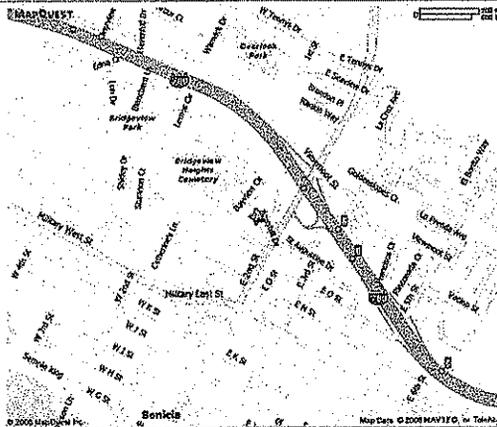


Capitol Heights unit fronting Riverhill Drive.

Location

From Military East, head north onto East 2nd Street and turn left on Riverhill Drive. These homes can be seen on your right hand side and along Bayview Circle.

Note: Bayview Circle is a one-way street.



Address
All the homes are located on Bayview Circle and also along Riverhill Drive.

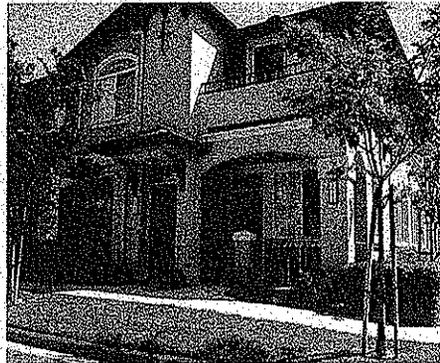
Air photo showing neighborhood context



Bay Ridge Apartments

Bay Ridge Apartments were built in 2004 on roughly 4 acres.

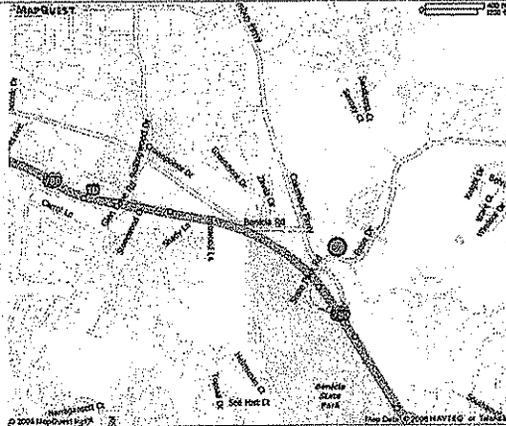
There are a total of 50 affordable units, 12 of which are for low income households, while the remaining 38 are set aside for very-low income units.



Bay Ridge Affordable Unit

Location

Head west on HWY 780 and exit at Columbus Parkway, turn right onto Rose Drive. Bay Ridge Apartments will be on your left hand side just before Cambridge Drive.



Address
 Rose Drive just before
 Cambridge Drive

Air Photo showing neighborhood context



Burgess Point Apartments

Owned and operated by Benicia Housing Partners.

3.75 acres

56 units

-50 units for low income

-6 units for very low income

Completed in 2004.

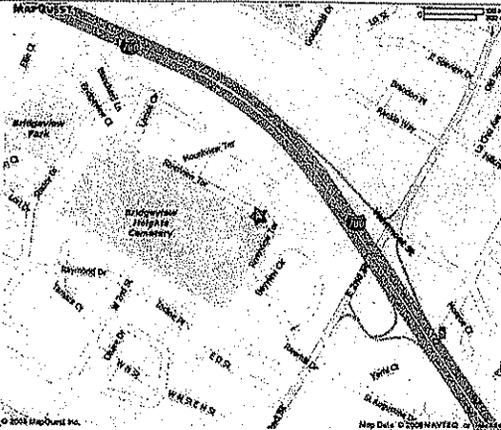
Located at 91 Riverview Terrace.



Burgess Point's very-low and low income units.

Location

From Military East, head north onto East 2nd Street and turn left onto Riverhill Drive. Turn right onto Riverview Terrace and at the top of the hill you'll see Burgess Point Apartments.



Address:
91 Riverview Terrace

Air photo showing neighborhood context



Hearthstone Village

Completed in 2004.

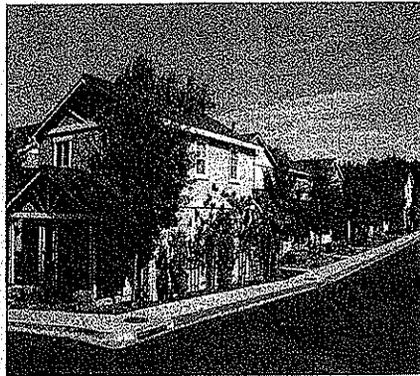
Located at West 5th and Military West.

12 units

7 units for low income

5 units for very low income

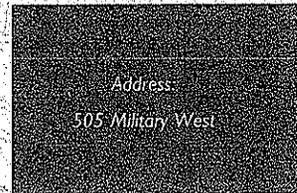
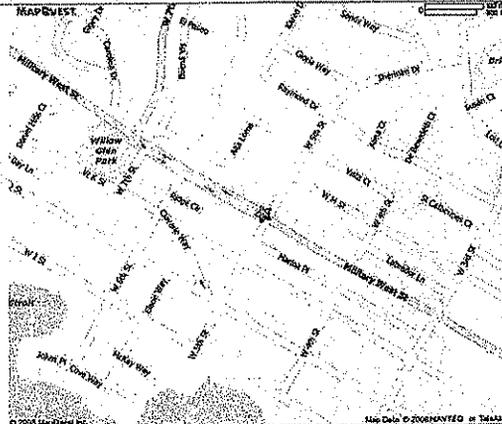
Completed by Affordable Housing Affiliation.



Hearthstone Village very-low and low income units.

Location

From First Street, head west on to Military. Immediately after West 5th you will see the Hearthstone Apartments on your right hand side. There is no parking along the Military, so you will need to find parking along West 5th and walk out to Military West to view the apartments from the street.



Air photo showing neighborhood context



Clipper Bay

Built around 2000, this development includes 24 detached single family units, 8 accessory units, and 6 duplexes. Three duplex units are set aside for those with very low incomes. These units will maintain their affordability for 30 years, or until about 2030.

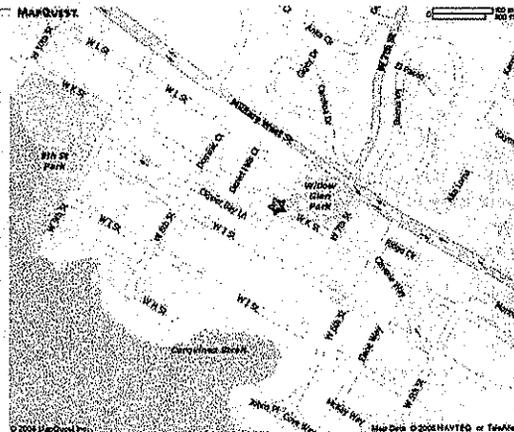
The very-low income units are at 702, 706, and 708 West K Street.



702 West K Street. Very-low income unit.

Location

From First Street head west onto K Street. Go past West 7th Street to find 702, 706, and 708 West K Street. These are the affordable units.



Address:
702, 706, and 708
West K Street

Air photo showing neighborhood context



Clos Duvall

Completed in 2004.

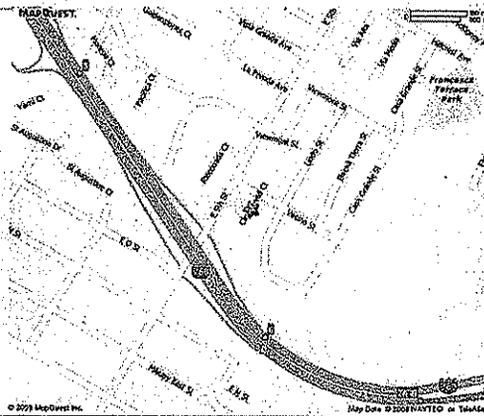
There are 2 units set aside as affordable housing. One unit is for low-income, and the other is in the moderate category. These units are set aside for affordable housing for 30 years.



Housing on Clos Duvall Court.

Location

From First Street turn right onto Military East. Turn left on East 5th Street. Turn right onto Vecino. Make and immediate right onto Clos Duvall Court.



Address:
Clos Duvall Court

Air photo showing neighborhood context



Habitat for Humanity

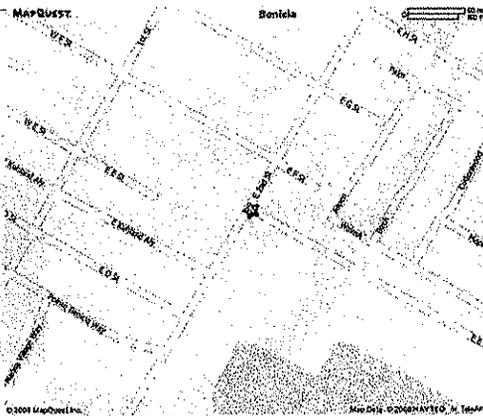
Two single family detached units.
Completed in 2002.



201 East E Street. House built by Habitat for Humanity.

Location

From First Street head south and make a left on to West K Street. Make a right onto East 2nd Street. Turn left onto East E Street. These two homes are at the corner of East E and East 2nd Streets.



Address:
201 and 205 East E Street

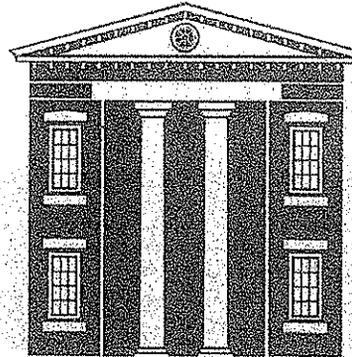
Air photo showing neighborhood context



CITY OF BENICIA HOUSING EXPO

City of Benicia
 Community Development Department
 Planning Division
 250 East "L" Street
 Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: 707.746.4280
 Fax: 707.747.8121
 Email: lporras@ci.benicia.ca.us



THE CITY OF
BENICIA
 CALIFORNIA

*Serving our community with care,
 commitment, and pride.*

We're on the web!
www.ci.benicia.ca.us

Project Information, Links, Contacts

For more information about the Housing Element update, please visit the city's website for up-to-date information, notices of available documents, reports, and steps toward project completion.

LINKS

Association of Bay Area Governments

www.abag.ca.gov

State Department of Housing and Community Development

www.hcd.ca.gov

Community Development Department

Charlie Knox, Director
 Planning Division
 Damon Golubits, Principal Planner
 Lisa Forras, Senior Planner, Project Manager
 Mike Marcus, Associate Planner

Technical Consultants

Lisa Wise, Principal, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.
 Amy Sinsheimer, Senior Associate, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.
 Mike Austin, Associate, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc

City Council

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
 Tom Campbell, Vice Mayor
 Mark Hughes, Council Member
 Mike Ioakimedes, Council Member
 Alan Schwartzman, Council Member

Planning Commission

Fred Reiltsback, Chair
 Dan Healy, Vice Chair
 Richard Bortolazzo, Commissioner
 Rick Ernst, Commissioner
 Rod Sherry, Commissioner
 Leo Syracuse, Commissioner
 Brad Thomas, Commissioner

City Manager

Jim Erickson

Affordable Housing Visual Preference Survey

City residents were invited to take part in a visual housing preference survey as part of the Benicia Housing Expo in October, 2008. The survey was meant to enhance the City's understanding of community preferences about the design of future affordable housing. The survey displayed ten photos from existing affordable communities with a wide range of styles and densities. Participants were asked to indicate whether or not each design would be appropriate for Benicia and were provided space to comment on each image.

Overall, participants felt that units designed to appear as condos or large single-family residences would fit best with their community. They preferred units that were two stories in height and that were surrounded by landscaping and offered ample shade. The following images represent the four affordable housing styles considered to be most appropriate for Benicia by survey participants.



Rank: 1st

Responses

Appropriate: 19

Not Sure: 3

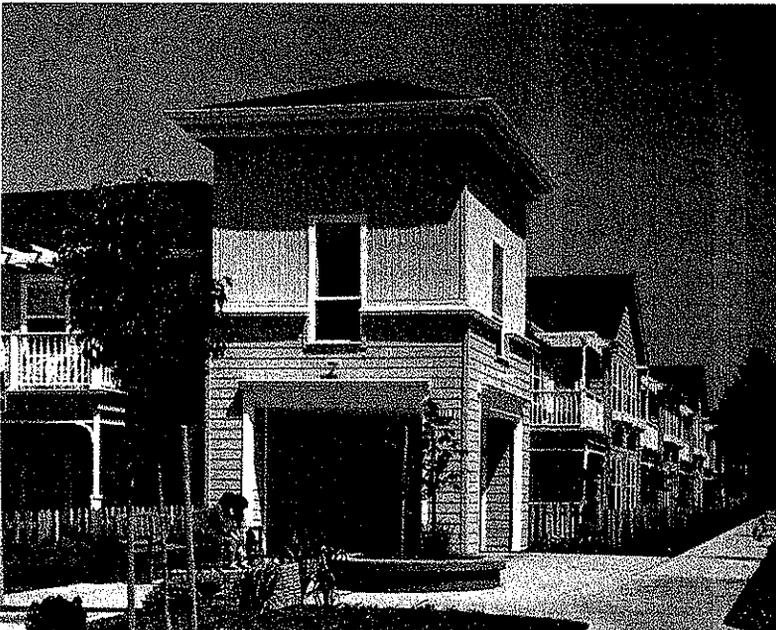
Not Appropriate: 1

Comments

"Very pretty. Should go right into existing neighborhoods"

"Lovely - fits into our community"

"One of the best, fits character of the community - downtown"



Rank: 2nd

Responses

Appropriate: 15

Not Sure: 3

Not Appropriate: 1

Comments

"Condo look that fits well with much already in town. Could fit into single-family settings"

"Nice condo look"

"Better. Looks a little 'faux historic'"



Rank: 3rd

Responses

Appropriate: 12

Not Sure: 2

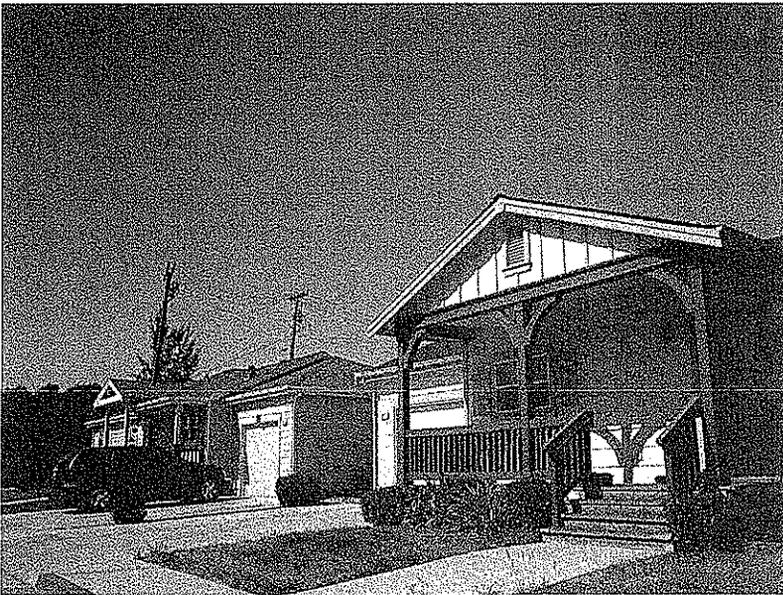
Not Appropriate: 4

Comments

"Looks like Benicia"

"Looks like Benicia unable to accept progress; stuck in the past; sprawling"

"Could work for duplexes"



Rank: 4th

Responses

Appropriate: 7

Not Sure: 7

Not Appropriate: 2

Comments

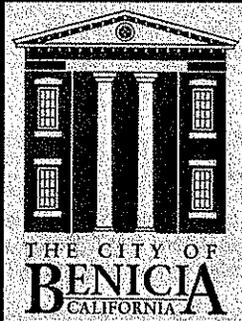
"Looks like the lowest density of all ten samples. Can Benicia afford this? Better probably to use single-family look with actually high-density"

"Not bad"

"OK, would be better with landscaping"

"Maybe, better to be a little denser or two stories but has a place for handicapped/elderly"

YOU ARE INVITED...



Come to the workshop.

Your voice matters...

Contact: (707) 746-4280

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The City is currently working on revising its housing plan.

The City is required by law to plan for 532 new homes to accommodate expected growth in jobs and population between now and 2014. Of the 532 homes, 246 must be planned for low income families. Come help us select where all of this housing should occur.

For more information, go to www.ci.benicia.ca.us and click on the Community Development Department's homepage and locate "Current Projects" and select Housing Element Update.

Because deciding where and how we house our citizens is one of the most important decisions we can make.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Where and how should we plan for new housing including homes for lower income families?

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Senior Center

187 East L Street

Benicia

NOTES • Housing Sites Workshop**Tuesday, February 10, 2009****6:00 PM – 8:00 PM****Senior Center****187 East L Street, Benicia****Workshop Objective: Recommend sites where housing could be built between now and 2014.****Notes****1) Introduction and Overview (6:00 PM – 6:30 PM)**

Lisa Porras, Senior Planner for the City of Benicia, provided a brief description of the project, workshop purpose, and agenda contents. Lisa Wise, Principal with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. presented an overview of State requirements, local demographics, and outcomes from the October 2008 Housing Expo, and answered questions from the audience.

Q: Is it possible to use houses/units in foreclosure?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the requirements for Inclusionary Housing in Benicia?

A: Projects with 10 or more units are required to provide 10 percent of the total number of market rate units within the development as affordable to, and occupied by, very-low and low-income households for a minimum of 30 years.

Q: Is there a map of existing affordable housing in Benicia?

A: Existing affordable units are shown on the maps for the group exercises, and are provided within the Affordable Housing Tour brochure, which is available on the City's website.

Q: Could the city and the consultants provide copies of tonight's PowerPoint presentation?

A: A copy of the presentation will be posted to the City's website for download.

Q: Could density be increased on existing affordable housing sites?

A: Yes

Q: Could subsidized workforce housing be built [for police, teachers, etc.]?

A: Yes, if they can meet criteria for income levels.

Q: Do impact fees increase with population growth?

A: No

Q: Are the people who purchase or rent affordable housing from Benicia?

A: Yes. There is a 4-year waiting list for units managed by the Housing Authority.

Q: How does additional housing affect school populations?

A: The Benicia Unified School District has the authority and the responsibility from the State to develop a Long Range Facilities Plan, which includes evaluation of the capacity and utilization of their existing facilities (e.g. schools), including evaluations of local demographics and enrollment projections.

1) Sites Discussion (6:30 PM – 7:15 PM)

Participants gathered together in 5 groups to discuss Benicia's housing choices, including criteria to determine where new housing should occur, such as walking distances to public services and everyday needs, and proximity to public transit.

Participants were asked to discuss the topics:

- ❖ Vacant land available for housing.
- ❖ Vacant land *not* currently available for housing – investigate possibilities for zoning changes.
- ❖ Underutilized/Opportunity Sites –explore possibilities for infill.

Members of the consultant team and City staff visited each group, making themselves available for questions and answers.

2) Discussion Outcomes – Group Reporting (7:15 PM – 7:45 PM)

Group One:

- ❖ Is higher density possible at the Southampton and Solano shopping centers?
- ❖ Relocate Robert Semple School to the Mills Schools site, then use Robert Semple site for mixed-use and housing.
- ❖ Consider aggregating small vacant lots.
- ❖ Assess 2nd units (e.g. accessory dwelling units, granny flats) requirements to reduce constraints.
- ❖ Construct housing for seniors on the city-owned E Street parking lot and on the adjacent parcel (to the north) as well.
- ❖ The City's Corporate Yard site is not an ideal location; it is too far from public transit or services.

- ❖ Plan for Senior Housing, which accommodates more units per square feet of land, and has less parking requirements.
- ❖ Consider Mixed Use for Solano Square and Southampton Shopping Center.
- ❖ Increase the densities on vacant parcels through rezones.
- ❖ Senior housing is proposed in the Arsenal: 50 affordable units + 30 market rate.

Group Two

- ❖ The Robert Semple School site is not viable for housing.
- ❖ Why are all the opportunity sites south of HWY 780?
- ❖ Locate some sites north of HWY 780.
- ❖ Do not build on land designated Open Space.
- ❖ Include housing as part of the Senior Center.
- ❖ City fees are a constraint to affordable housing.
- ❖ Do not consider portion of Overlook Park for housing.
- ❖ Consider sites north of HWY 780, such as along Rose Center Drive, and E. 2nd Street.

Group Three

- ❖ Remove barriers to 2nd units (e.g. accessory dwelling units, granny flats).
- ❖ Spread affordable housing out.
- ❖ Additional areas in the Arsenal could be opportunity sites.
- ❖ What about sites north of HWY 780?
- ❖ Reduce fees for 2nd units.
- ❖ Reduce minimum lot size for 2nd units.
- ❖ Benicia is a small, fine-grained city; 2nd units are a good fit.
- ❖ What about a 2nd unit amnesty program?
- ❖ We don't want to look like Walnut Creek.
- ❖ Consider housing as part of the Seeno plan.
- ❖ The site at Military West and West 7th is a good location for senior housing.
- ❖ Change zoning in the Arsenal to allow for development/redevelopment.
- ❖ Robert Semple and Mills School sites are not appropriate for housing.

Group Four

- ❖ Housing sites should be in high-density areas, near services.
- ❖ Areas north of HWY 780 are suitable for single-family detached housing types and open space; affordable/high density housing is not appropriate in these areas.
- ❖ There should be design standards for 2nd units.
- ❖ Robert Semple School site is acceptable.
- ❖ Single-Room-Occupancy units are acceptable for seniors.
- ❖ We should refer to the Draft Arsenal Specific Plan, which contemplates residential as an accepted use in this area.

- ❖ Mills School provides recreation and activities; we'd rather not see these taken away to build housing.
- ❖ Concentrate housing in areas south of HWY 780 near services and transportation and other multi-family units.
- ❖ Focus on the sites at West 5th and Military West, and West 7th and Military West.
- ❖ The Corporate Yard and Robert Semple are good sites for housing.
- ❖ Mills is a possibility.
- ❖ Further investigation for rezoning in the Arsenal.
- ❖ Do not built on open space.

Group Five

- ❖ School sites are worth looking into as potential opportunity sites for housing; it does not mean that residential would be developed there.
- ❖ What about housing as part of the Seeno plan?
- ❖ Arsenal offers some opportunities in key locations.
- ❖ Redevelop the Senior Center to include housing for seniors.
- ❖ Develop the city-owned E Street parking lot and adjacent paved lot for Senior Housing.
- ❖ Not sure about Southampton Shopping Center as site for mixed use.
- ❖ Solano Square should be an opportunity site to accommodate mixed uses, including housing.
- ❖ Could the Water Tank site (north of Havenhill Drive) be considered for housing?
- ❖ Let's redevelop Capitol Heights to include more units through increased densities.
- ❖ Consider the site near Military West and West 2nd for housing.
- ❖ Housing above stores in the Southampton Shopping Center is not a good idea.
- ❖ Do not consider the Corporate Yard on East 2nd Street.
- ❖ Robert Semple is a good site for housing, if vacated.
- ❖ The city-owned East E Street parking lot should be developed with parking below and housing above.
- ❖ Redevelopment of the Mills School site is possible.
- ❖ Support housing in the Arsenal.
- ❖ Support infill on small lots.
- ❖ The sites shown on the map between East 6th, East 7th, and East H and I Streets should be low density, single family, with some land dedicated for a park.
- ❖ The site at West I and West 2nd Streets should have parking below and apartments above.

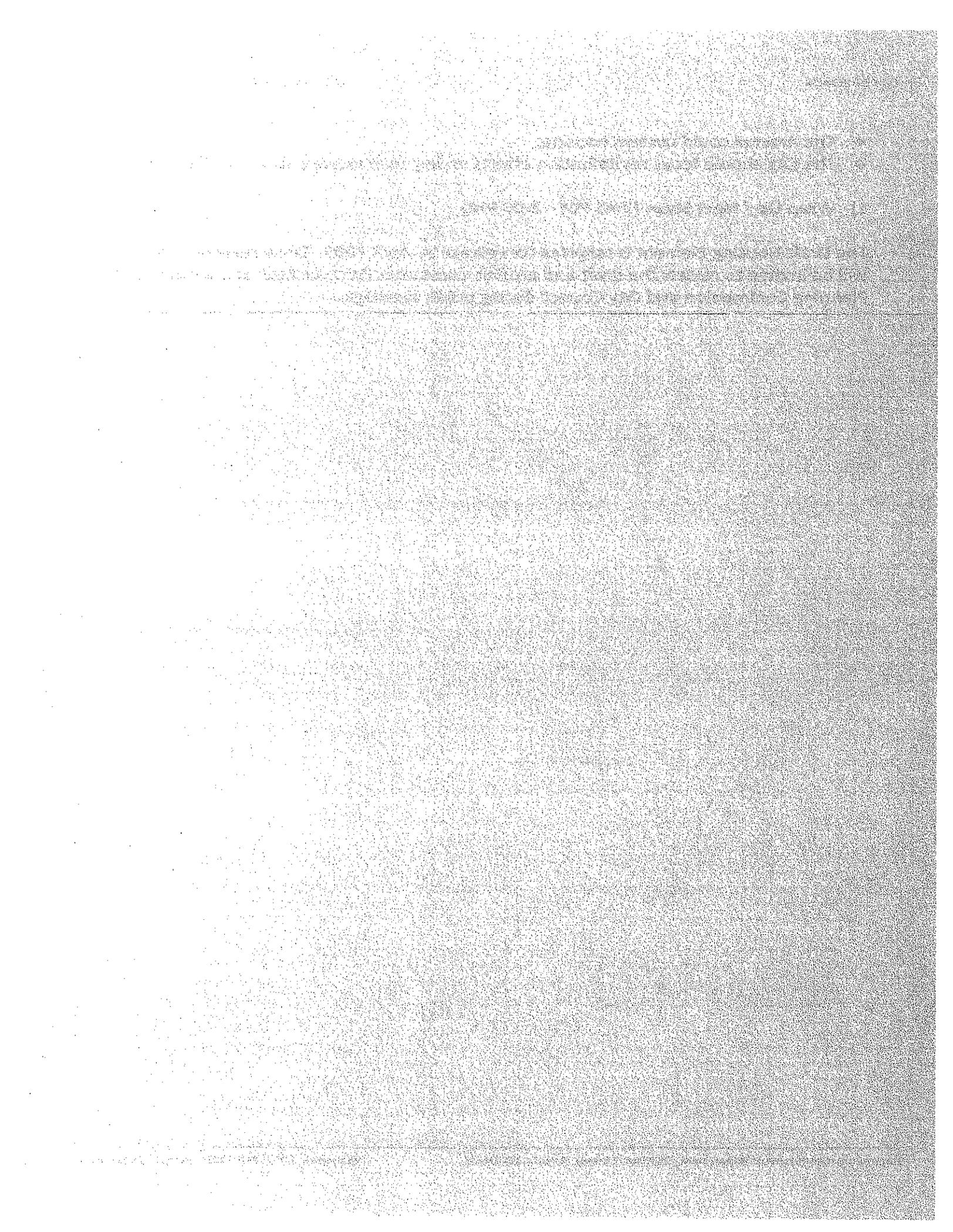
Additional Comments

- ❖ There are more opportunity sites in the Arsenal than shown on the maps.
- ❖ Rezoning should occur after the Housing Element is approved by the City Council and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.
- ❖ Higher density can trigger higher parking requirements; this needs to be addressed.
- ❖ Solano Square could be revitalized.

- ❖ The Arsenal could contain housing.
- ❖ The City should focus revitalization efforts on key sites located south of HWY 780.

1) Wrap Up / Next Steps (7:45 PM – 8:00 PM)

The Draft Housing Element is targeted for release by April 2009. Once released, the public will be invited to review the draft and provide comments (both written and verbal) to the Planning Commission and City Council during public hearings.



Appendix I: Potential Upzone Sites - Vacant Parcels

Potential Upzone Sites - Vacant Buildable Sites											
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max density allowed	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infra-structure Capacity
Single Family Residential											
1	88215060	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
2	87112130	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
4	89074100	6,250	0.14	RS	RLD	7	1.00	5.6	0.80	Vacant	Yes
11	88215050	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
15	89074090	21,875	0.50	RS	RLD	7	3.52	5.6	2.81	Vacant	Yes
16	87134370	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
17	87112180	7,840	0.18	RS	RLD	7	1.26	5.6	1.01	Vacant	Yes
21	88224010	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
23	87142330	10,012	0.23	RS	RLD	7	1.61	5.6	1.29	Vacant	Yes
24	86062060	37,500	0.86	RS	RLD	7	6.03	5.6	4.82	Vacant	Yes
25	88215040	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
26	89074080	9,375	0.22	RS	RLD	7	1.51	5.6	1.21	Vacant	Yes
28	88215070	8,276	0.19	RS	RLD	7	1.33	5.6	1.06	Vacant	Yes
29	87112170	6,969	0.16	RS	RLD	7	1.12	5.6	0.90	Vacant	Yes
30	87161010	15,750	0.36	RS	RLD	7	2.53	5.6	2.02	Vacant	Yes
31	89076090	14,810	0.34	RS	RLD	7	2.38	5.6	1.90	Vacant	Yes
38	88224020	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
39	88224030	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
40	87161220	16,900	0.39	RS	RLD	7	2.72	5.6	2.17	Vacant	Yes
43	87112160	9,147	0.21	RS	RLD	7	1.47	5.6	1.18	Vacant	Yes
45	88164050	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
46	88166020	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
47	89074030	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
48	89076010	18,750	0.43	RS	RLD	7	3.01	5.6	2.41	Vacant	Yes
54	89021290	10,813	0.24	RS	RLD	7	1.68	5.6	1.34	Vacant	Yes
55	89021300	9,868	0.23	RS	RLD	7	1.61	5.6	1.29	Vacant	Yes
TOTALS		350,154	8.03				56.23		44.98		

Appendix J: Potential Rezone Sites - Opportunity Sites

Appendix J Potential Rezones - Opportunity Sites

Potential Rezone Sites - Opportunity Sites											
Number on Map in Appendix C	APN	Square Feet	Acres	Zoning	GP Land Use	Max du/ac	Max du/ac	at 80% density	80% buildout	Existing Use	Infrastructure Capacity
96	87143130	71,003	1.63	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
101	87093180	61,419	1.41	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
108	86101040	37,461	0.86	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
110	86091650	60,112	1.38	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
111	89013050	18,730	0.43	RS	RLD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
129	87144010	15,675	0.36	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
137	88141070	41,000	0.94	PS	Public	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
138	88113010	41,250	0.95	PS	Public	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
141	88113020	8,712	0.20	PS	Pub & Semi-Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Benicia Senior Center	Yes
142	86151100	595,465	13.67	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Southampton Center	Yes
153	89012250	33,000	0.76	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Yes
154	87200090 through 87200130; 88111020 through 88111090	418,612	9.61	CG	GC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Solano Square	Yes
155	87021080	376,794	8.65	RM	RMD	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Capitol Heights Housing	Yes
TOTALS		1,779,233	40.85								

Appendix K: Map of Priority Development Area

FOCUS

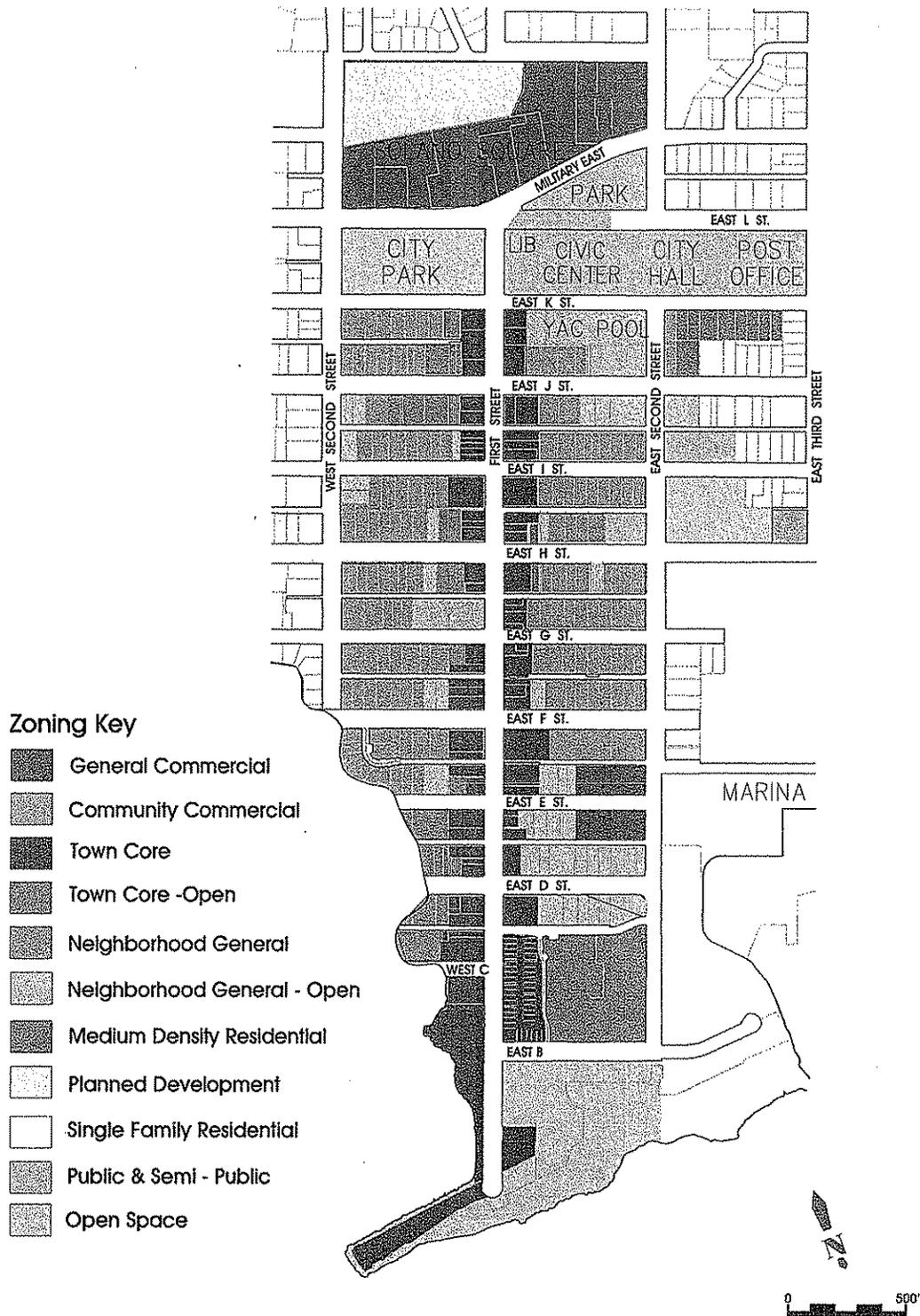
Four Bay Area regional agencies have joined forces in a Joint Policy Committee. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are working together to create complete, livable communities. These communities will, in turn, help achieve a more efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable region.

Under the FOCUS program, areas are either designated as Priority Development Areas (PDA) or Priority Conservation Areas (PCA).

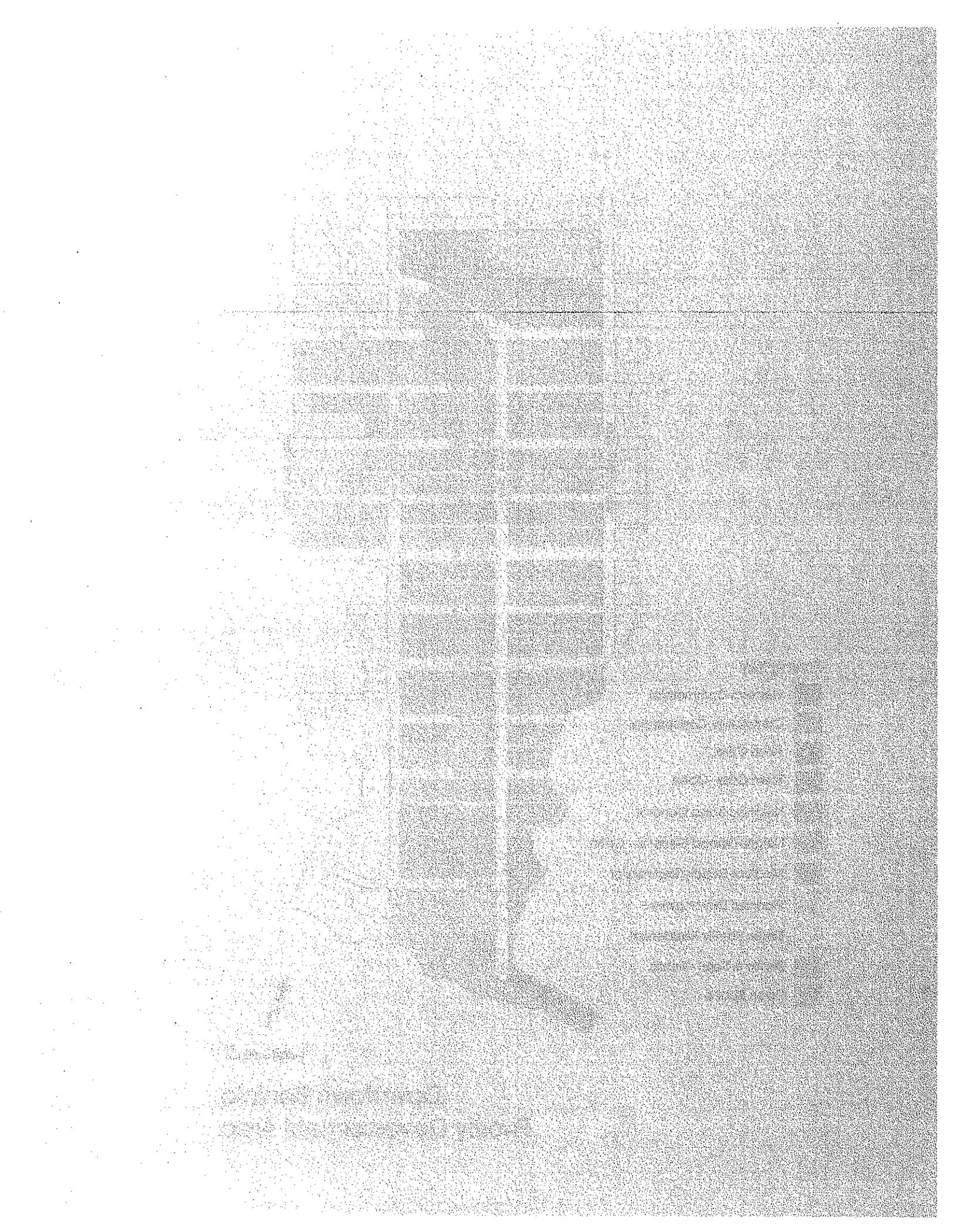
According to ABAG, "Priority Development Areas are locally-identified, infill development opportunity areas within existing communities. They are generally areas of at least 100 acres where there is local commitment to developing more housing along with amenities and services to meet the day-to-day needs of residents in a pedestrian-friendly environment served by transit." Through PDA or PCA designation, cities are eligible for technical assistance and grants for transit, housing, parks and infrastructure projects that support the FOCUS program goals of reducing traffic, protecting the environment and enhancing existing neighborhoods.

In September 2008, the City of Benicia submitted an application to ABAG to participate in the FOCUS program by establishing a Priority Development Area (PDA) in downtown Benicia. ABAG's Executive Board approved the proposed PDA in November 2008. The Downtown PDA consists of 145 acres from N Street to the First Street Pier between West Second and East Third Streets.

Source: <http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/prioritydevelopmentareas.html> and City of Benicia.



Downtown Benicia Priority Development Area



Appendix L: References

Appendix L References

- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG),
Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan for
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- Vallejo Neighborhood Housing Services (VNHS)

ATTACHMENT
PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONVERSION OF
THE CITY'S HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM
TO A FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS DOWN PAYMENT
ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM AND TO HELP FUND
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Special Meeting IV-A-5

RESOLUTION NO. 09-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BENICIA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING STAFF TO CONVERT THE HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM TO A FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM AND FOR TRANSIONAL HOUSING BY APPLYING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GENERAL AND COLONIAS ALLOCATIONS FUNDS FOR 2009-2010

WHEREAS, the City of Benicia has a current balance of \$432,000.25 in funds available for its Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program; and

WHEREAS, the City is not eligible to receive additional housing funds from the State unless current funds are expended; and

WHEREAS, there has been a lack of demand for Housing Rehabilitation Loans; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible to convert the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to an alternative program and other uses by application for CDBG General and Colonias Allocation Funds for 2009-2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Benicia hereby supports conversion of its Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to a new First Time Home Buyers Down Payment Assistance Loan Program and to help fund Transitional Housing, and therefore, directs staff to apply by July 14, 2009 for CDBG funds and request re-direction of funds for such uses therein.

* * * *

On motion of Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, the above Resolution was introduced and passed by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 2nd day of July, 2009 and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

Special Meeting IV-A-6